Nov 1968

Marion Davies
and
Bing
GOING HOLLYWOOD

THE
INTERNATIONAL
CROSBY CIRCLE
PRESENTS

bing

Edited by
FRANK MURPHY

AJR/studios

International Crosby Circle
edited by Frank Murphy

FM
FRANK MURPHY PROMOTIONS

Merry Christmas
May the Best of Everything
Come Your Way in the
New Year

Bing

AJR/studios

Hon President;
BING CROSBY

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
incorporating
THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY
founded 1950

Hon Vice-President;
LARRY CROSBY

PUBLICITY OFFICERS
Dom Woolland, 151 Cauldwell Lane, West Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, England
Bob Roberts, 56 Thorold Road, Chatham, Kent, England
Brian Pattinson, 103 Ravensworth Road, Dunstan, Co Durham, England

BINGPICS
John Maughan, 1 Lauderdale Ave, Wallsend, Northumberland, England

REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIA
Keith Hyde, "El Bingo" 21 Carbeena Parade, West Heidelburg, 3081, Victoria

BRITISH ISLES
Johnny Jones, 15 Victoria Gardens, Ballyhalbert, Co Down, N. Ireland
Michael Crampton, 1 Lanbar Sq, Whinmoor, Leeds 14, England; tele 642349

CANADA
Jean Paul Frerault, 1541 Iena, Ville de Laval (Chomedy) Port Quebec

EIRE
George O' Reilly, Santa Maria, 143 Shantalla Rd, Whitehall, Dublin

ISRAEL
Samuel Sternberg, Ness Ziona, P.O.B. 19, Nechemia St 130

U.S.A.
Fred Romary, 28-14 157th Str, Flushing 11354, New York
Dorothy Hardiman, 659 Moorpark Way Apt 2, Mountain View, California 94040

****

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Reg Bristo, 95 Lydstep Flats, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 2QX, S Wales
Alf Farrow, 44 Milne Rd, Bilton Grange, Hull, England

1******1

SECRETARY
Frank Murphy, 23 Lovaine Pl, North Shields, Northumberland, England; tele 70492

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When your annual subscribtion is due a special renewal notice will be included with your magazine.

When writing to any of the clubs officers please ALWAYS extend the courtesy of a stamped self addressed envelope.

Honorary members include;
STAN WHITE-former Publicity officer; MICK DRURY-Tape Crosby. KATHRYN CROSBY: JOHN SCOTT TROTTER; DOUGLAS ENEFER-Newcastle Evening Chronicle

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* PRESENTING "BING" THE TOP MAGAZINE FOR THE CROSBY ENTHUSIAST *
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Leaflets advertising THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE and our sister group THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY are always available for distribution - your valued assistance in helping to increase our circulation is always appreciated.

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
Issue No 12 "BING" ++++ NOV.5 1968:

7..Letter-Box.....
12..An Eventful Day.....Leslie Gaylor...
15..The Negative Mr 'C'.....Frank Murphy....
16..To Frid From Frunk.....Fred Reynolds...
18..A Personal Letter From Bing.....
18..The 1930's Record Society.....
20.."BING" Crosby Shoppe.....
21..American AirMail.....Dorothy Hardiman
22..Notes of The Meeting.....Fred Reynolds...
23..Canadian AirMail.....Jean Paul.....
25..The Peter Wilson Column.....
29..The Fred Romary Column.....
36..British Report.....Michael Crampton
44..The Reg Bristo Column.....

A personal letter to all members;

23, Lovaine Place
North Shields
Northumberland
England

10 - Nov - 1968

Dear Club member,

Alma and the children, Angela, Michael, Janet, Linda and I were thrilled when our new addition to the family, Paul arrived on October 14th, the happy event was marred by the sudden illness of my father who was taken to hospital just a few days later, and his death on November 6th.

I don't want to describe our personal feelings here, but I will be grateful if you will accept these reasons for delays both in the production of this magazine, and replies to your many letters. Things are beginning to return to normal now and I hope to be able to catch up on all outstanding club matters in due course.

From New York, Steve Mason sends his warmest regards to all members who wrote him good wishes following his recent illness, around the New Year Steve hopes to "Be back in the swing of things" - we hope so Steve.

Ken Mc Manus sent in some important news items, not least of which was the news that THOROUGHLY MODERN BING was now available in the U.K. on the STATESIDE label, and what is more important is the fact that WHERE THE RAINBOW ENDS is included on the British issue. I understand that Ken is to be a D.J. when he reaches South Africa in the year 1969.

Don Woolland passed on the news that our great colleague in Israel Sam Sternberg was now recuperating after a serious illness - Fred Romary in the States had also been under surgery - What a time for set backs for such luminaries of the club - I'm sure you will join me in sending best wishes to one and all.

Because of the present pressures it has'nt been possible to include much news that was originally scheduled - the Movie File and Song sheets have also been held over until Febuary when I hope we'll meet again - I'd like at this time to close by sending best wishes from myself and family to all club members and their families for Christmas and the New Year.

Sincerely, Frank Murphy

LETTERBOX

Mrs Mc Cormish
Bootle 20
Lancs
England
"I have been advised by Mr Larry Crosby to write to you for the words of MC NAMARA'S BAND. I have been in every shop in Liverpool for Bing's record of it and have been unsuccessful. I am in the Union Of Catholic Mothers (St Monica's) and I want all the 'Mothers' to sing it. We are nearly all old age pensioners and we all agree that Bing's version of it is the best"

Frank Briggs
Hull
East Yorkshire
England
"I have for sometime now been interested in re-joining the ICC and enclose the necfessary subscription, I would also like a copy of the mini-discography, This seems to be our year for seeing and hearing our favourite 'guy' - all the new record releases etc are very interesting".

Albert Chisholm
South Shields
Co Durham
England
"I am a keen Crosby fan and noting you were president of the International Crosby Circle, I am very keen to join your group, I would also like further information on the discography of Bing's records which the Shields Gazette mentioned"

Raymonde
Winnick
Nr Warrington
England
"Please accept many thanks for the lovely long playing record of Bing Crosby which you sent to me. I was so delighted to receive it and very touched. I know that it will bring me great pleasure to listen to it again and again, especially the French songs"

Ernest Robinson
Stockport
Cheshire
England
I was pleased to be able to purchase Kathryn's book BING AND OTHER THINGS recently and also tonote that the critics had given the book such good reviews, also enjoyed Bing's film RIDING HIGH on TV recently especially the part where Bing sang SUNSHINE CAKE. Mind you, to me, all Bing's films are worth seeing over and over again for just like the records, you always seem to get great enjoyment from them"

Trevor Cleaver
Victoria
Australia
"I would be pleased o if you would forward me copies of your magazine as available. I am a Crosby collector from way back and John Purches from Adelaide says this magazine would be invaluable to me. Admittedly I only collect his records from the war years but any information concerning Bing interests me. I have been purchasing records from England f o r the past 15 years with wonderful satisfaction"

Bob Kumm
Staten Island
New York

close my cheque to cover membership of both "BING" and "THE GOLDEN YEARS" plus
copy of the newly published mini-discography"

continuing
LETTERBOX

Gerald Stickler
Dudley
Worcs
England
"The BBC have forwarded your address to me as a result of my enquiring after hearing your interview on the TODAY programme. I have been an ardent fan of Bing Crosby's for some 20 odd years but until now I was unaware of the existance of a fan club. In the past, when wanting any information I have written to Bing's agent and have had some very interesting letters and two very nice large photos of him"

Frank Steiner
California
USA
"Bing's record recieved safely and well too, I have also the new Longine set plus the two record set from Columbia. At present I am attempting to arrange another interview with another chap who worked with Bing"

Henry Hollow
Tasmania
Australia
"If you can manage it I would like to hear or read news about Derek Parkes. I feel reluctant to write since he might feel obliged to write back. My concern about his welfare is shared by other collectors out here.
I have just received the Pickwick album and also the Epic album. After one listening I cannot fail to notice the verve displayed by Bing and the pronounced stereophonic quality of the recording.The songs are mostly lightweight but hold promise for the future. The Epic album needs no comment. Albums such as this one vindicate my policy of never buying worn out shellacs which in the past have been a real handicap to my collection"

Mike Soper
Cardiff
Wales
"Pleased to read in the press that Kathryn's book BING AND OTHER THINGS is now in the shops"(25/-)

Mr W Houlihan
Deptford
London
England
"I wrote to Bing Crosby and I had a reply giving me your address and suggesting I write to you, The reason I wrote is because I am anxious to buy some of Bing's old 78's or some of the albums which may have some of the original titles on them. I have got several such as OLD MASTERS and THE EARLY THIRTIES and I recently got BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD, but there are many others I still need and I would value any assistance your club could give me"

Tony Bulmer
Guisborough
Yorkshire
England
"While I was in the local library I came across a book of nicknames by Julian Franklyn. so I thought of Bing, which is really his nickname - this is what it said.

BING: IS THE INSEPERABLE NICKNAME OF ANY MAN NAMED CROSBY: FROM THE AMERICAN VOCALIST WHO POPULARISED THE TUNELESS, OUT-OF-STEP TYPE OF VERY PROSY SONG THAT HAS NOW KILLED VOCAL MERIT. IT MUST BE RECORDED IN HIS FAVOUR, HOWEVER, THAT HIS RENDERING OF "BUDDY CAN YOU SPARE A DIME" WAS MOST TOUCHING, PARTICULARLY AT THAT PERIOD OF WESTERN ECONOMIC HISTORY WHEN MILLIONS WERE UNEMPLOYED AND NEAR STARVATION ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC; You find Bing mentioned in the funniest places"

Wag Bowerman
Watford
Herts
England
"I envy Bing his visit to Keny:. I spent nearly two years there in the 'forces' and know what a grand place it is. In fact I saw GOING MY WAY in an army camp open air cinema right in the middly of ATHI PLAINS about 30 miles from NAIROBI. and talking of GOING MY WAY, I've seen it in ENGLAND, EGYPT, KENYA and ORKNEY ISLANDS, Hows that for following it around"

Ken Hopkins
Melbourne
Australia
"I am also an admirer of the late MICHAEL HOLLIDAY and am wondering if there are any of his records still availble in the U.K.. The only records of Mike that I have are one 10" album one 45 and one 45 single which appear to be the only ones available over here. I would be grateful of any information from other club members in UK

Brian Pattinson
Dunstan
Co Durham
England
"North of England members may be interested in the news that WINDOWS, THE ARCADE, NEWCASTLE ON TYNE have now got the set of LONGINES albums by Bing"

John Dobson
Eltham
London
England
The article from our correspondent in Israel SAMUEL STERNBERG was to me, very thought provoking, the more I think about it, the more I am inclined to say he is absolutely right. Yes, it is not what Bing sings but the way he sings it - or rather, I should say and use the expression 'says it' - that is all important"

Brenda Miles
"I liked the article on Bing's visit to Gonzaga University, always enjoy the topical articles, please send me a copy of the mini discography"

Harry Burt
Southampton
England
"My friend of long standing Phil Clarke has been praising the activities of your club and I too would like to join the Circle"

Graham Reade
Reynella
South Australia
"The little tape covering Bing's visit to Spokane arrived safely and was most interesting. I will arrange copies for any of the local boys who may want it. I hear Bing has been in England again recently and that he looked fit and well - You know Australia must be one of the few countries in the world he's never visited yet still, we live in hope"

Kieron O' Toole
Cheshire
England
"I would be grateful if you would send me a copy of the mini-disgoraphy, incidentall didyou hear Bing being interviewed on LATE NIGHT EXTRA recently, I was unaware that he was in England and was very pleasantly surprised to hear him. Bing was as casual as ever and was very courteous to the interviewer. They played STEP TO THE REAR inmdiately afterwards. This was the first time I had heard the record, which, although perfectly executed, it is hardly Hit Parade material. The balance of the record leaves much to be desired, but I suppose that modern trends have to be catered for One only hopes that in the not too distant future Bing will produce a record that will catch the public eye, this after all, is only right for the most creative talent in popular music that this century has produced"

George Hughes
Clackmannanshire
Scotland
"I have recently ordered Bing's THOROUGHLY MODERN BING album from the USA and I can hardly wait to hear it as I am a great fan of Bing's recordings of the 60's, not that I don't think a lot of his other periods, but I have always thought that in recent years Bing has had some magnifient tones in his recordings. I'm looking forward to recieving my copy of the mini-discography too."

Ron Daniels
Elizabeth West
South Australia
"Last week I was very pleased to take delivery of the new album THOROUGHLY MODERN BING, if Bing can continue to turn out albums like this I'll be very happy to keep on buying - Hope you were able to send me a copy of the mini-discog as requested in my last letter - I also received the BING CROSBY STORY Vol 1, 32 tracks of early Bing, a really marvellous set. I have already had hours of enjoyment out of playing these, especially as I was not fortunate enough to have the originals - Volume one suggests there's more to follow - goody goody"

John Bassett
Essex
England
"I really do appreciate the way in which the letter I recieved from the great man himself was presented in the last issue"

Jack Greaves
Lancs
England
"How useful the mini-discography has been, just the job for newer collectors I'm sure the older members who have the original Road to Bing Crosby series will find it useful, particular ly as a quick reference".

Keith Parkinson
Cheshire
England
"The only thing that did'nt live up to last months standard was the cover. It's good to know that Fred Romary has cooked up one for this issue. Good also to see the membership is on the up and up. You ought to give free membership to the 500th member to join the Circle. It should provide some free publicity too."

Bert Day
London
England
"Had the very great pleasure of meeting with STAN WHITE recently, and for the first time, and was very happy to do so. he brought me a rare 78 that I needed badly and although we only had a few minutes together it was very nice indeed"

George Maier
California
USA
"I just recently wrote to Bob Roberts in England in ref a letter I wrote to Bing Crosby who told me to write to Bob. In a reply letter he told me to write to you and enclose a dollar for a copy of the abridges version of the original discography of Bing Crosby of which my dad since 1928 has been a fan of and me recently. If this book is available please forward me a copy".

George O' Reilly
Dublin
Eire
"Very many thanks indeed for sending me a copy of the record containing the message from Bing to your recent club meeting. I was delighted to receive it and all the more so to hear that he mentioned me on his tape. Please extend my personal good wishes to all the club members".

Neville Peake
Leeds
England
"The CBS 2LP set was really a collector's item, I thought, it was grand to have all the early classics and the sound was quite fantastic for the period. I thought I knew all the songs from that period and it was nice to hear a few good ones I had'nt heard before, BLUEBIRDS AND THE BLACKBIRDS, MOONSTRUCK, BEAUTIFUL GIRL, all very nostalgic, and much as I have enjoyed seeing the 'Road' films, how I wish we could see those early Crosby films once more. I was intrigued to hear of the further double album of earlier Crosby numbers and look forward to it's issue with some eagerness. The record companies are catering for the older fans these days - they must be beginning to realise that vintage material still sells"

Dot Hardi an
California
USA
"Just a few lines to send my best wishes to all my former friends in the club, I w uld love to hear from any of our earlier members - I have a little spare time now and if I can help the club in any way I'd be delighted"

Charlie Ward
London
England
"I wonder if you watched the film which was shewn on ITV recently, alas, although it was Bing Crosby in a film called MR MUSIC, I thought it was very poor, apart from a few brief moments when Bing sang with Peggy Lee, LIFE IS SO PECULIAR, and of course when Bing sang by himself, this too was of standard, but by Crosby standards, I found the film well below parr. But in complete contrast I found the BBC radio item BE MY GUEST excellent and thoroughly enjoyed every moment especially the early reference to PAUL WHITEMAN, and the glowing tribute from Bing to the late EDDIE LANG, whom I consider on a parr with the great DJANGO, and anyone who needs convincing of this should just bend an ear to the 2 LP's on CBS STRINGING THE BLUES which not only feature EDDIE LANG, but also the DORSEY'S, BING CROSBY, and the wizard of the violin (who said he woud'nt have the guts to play it. I am looking forward to the mini-discography with eagerness and will you please tell Reg I really enjoyed the current issue of THE GOLDEN YEARS which I recieved a couple of weeks back."

Frank Winterbine
Victoria
Australia
"Many thanks for the MACK SENNETT songs, they brought back many happy memories, as I have few records of that period - I well remember the impact of Bing's rendering of WRAP YOUR TROUBLES IN DREAMS. In the latter 20's I was doing a two uke harmony turn with a pal and at the time we belonged to a club which produced a few performers in later years. The younger members adopted the style or rather tried to emulate it and every group we could assemble had a go at MISSISSIPPI MUD a la RHYTHM BOYS style, on the elders peculularly enough the style did not take for sometime, being used to the straight delivery of FRANK MUNN, FRANKLYN BAUR and the softer style of GENE AUSTIN, they could not grasp the wonderful modulating give out of the 'master' and in augument on the subject around 1930 I put forward that Bing was the opera singer of jazz and his singing did more for a lyric than anybody had ever done before, and in this year 1968 since his style has been borrowed by his greatest contempories, COMO, SINATRA, MARTIN, but they never really caught his phrasing which is why I think nobody really sounds like him"

Arthur Fortune
Yorks
England
"Congratulations on the mini-discography received recently, a truly wonderful achievement"

During the memorable visit by Bing and Kathryn to COCKERMOUTH Cumberland in the North of England in 1966 a name often in the lips of our illustrious duo was that of premier British collector LESLIE GAYLOR - but the miles that seperated them precluded any possibility, at least on this occasion, of them getting together.

Two full years were to pass before Les would find himself in the joint company of Mr and Mrs 'C' and below he tells the whole story to readers of this magazine

AN EVENTFUL DAY ..... LESLIE GAYLOR

Friday August 16th 1968 ranks as one of the most exciting days of my life and the pleasure I had on that day in the company of Bing Crosby and his so very pleasant wife Kathryn is unforgettable - After 8 meetings now with the famous man I have formed the opinion that if he can see you are a genuine fan, you are 'in' as the saying goes and ones social standing certainly is'nt a point Bing looks for, and when anyone meets him for the first time they get the fine treatment from Bing as though he has known you for a lifetime - he's a great man.

Tuis last visit I had with Bing and Kathryn in London came about so easily and I was simply overjoyed at how it all worked out. I have to thank my 14 year old daughter Paulette for making my visit possible because as she was lying in bed listening to her transister radio at about 10.30pm Thursday August 15 - Late Night Extra on BBC she suddenly heard Irish DJ TIM WOGAN announce they were going to play an interview with Bing recorded that day on his London arrival - she came rushing down to tell me and lo and behold there was 'the master' himself speaking in such a happy and carefree way about his visit to Nairobi etc, after the interview they played STEP TO THE REAR.

As I was still on holiday it gave me the inspiration to go to London to 'try my luck' - next morning, after a sleepless night, I was off to London town and on arrival at Waterloo I telephoned the office of the SUN newspaper to try to contact noted jazz critic MIKE NEVARD a long time correspondent of mine, but Mike was on holiday, next I phoned RON WILLS of the DAILY MIRROR, he too was unavailable, the reason I had tried to talk to Ron was because on recently recieving the disc of Bing's wonderful personal message to Frank, I had wrote to him to ask him if he would feature something on Bing in his SPORTLIGHT column as he had done oreviously and he had written back to thank me for tipping him off and promising to see what he could do. I then phoned the SAVOY, but no luck there and it then dawned on me that Bing might be staying at THE CONNAUGHT, so I rang them. The reply I got filled me with a burning exitement as a pleasant female voice coo-ed "Yes, Mr Crosby is staying here" - so dashing to the underground station I was soon whisked away to London's famous Oxford Street - I was soon at the Connaught, the scene of my two wonderful meetings with Bing last year, I recognised one of the two commissionaires and he told me Bing and Kathryn had gone out in a cab 45 minutes earlier at 12,30 he told me they had been photographed at the hotel by a Scottish newspaper prior to going out and his conversation indicated that Bing had had an easy morning.

I proceeded to wait outside the hotel as I thought that as Bing and Kathryn had gone out in a taxi it might be they would be returning early, some two hours passed quickly away whilst I was keeping a sharp eye on the taxis drawing up and all of a sudden as if they had dropped from the sky, there was both Bing and Kathryn on the pavement. I went up to them and suddenly Bing recognised me and said "Hullo Leslie" he turned to Kathryn and said "This is Leslie Gaylor". Kathryn replied also "Hullo Leslie, I've heard all about you from Bing, I'm very pleased to meet you" - Bing who was busy sorting out his taxi fare then said "Would you like some tea Leslie" and naturally I replied "Yes please Bing" - I'm sure all of you can guess my feelings, I really and truly felt at the moment the happiest Bing fan in all the world

I followed them to a lovely room and Kathrun ordered tea for us. We soon got into conversation and they were a little amused at how I had got to know they were in London. First I asked Bing if he and Kathryn would accept an offer from the BRITISH HOVERCRAFT CORPORATION to come to the Island for the purpose of a Hovercraft trip. They briefly talked this over and then Bing said."We don't know what we are going to do or how long we are staying, but probably when we come over to England next year for a holiday we will be bringing the children and we could perhaps give them a ride, they would like that" - I explained to Bing that two Hovercraft are kept on hand for the purpose of giving business people and personalities trips round and off the Island - so friends you can visualise that I hope they may come to the Island for two or three hours next year. It is a reality that I hope comes true.

During our conversation I proudly displayed my ICC tie and announced that I had christened it that day by wearing it for the v y first time. They listened intently when I announced I had written to Mr Basil F Grillo President of Bing Crosby Productions with a request that Bing may record 12 songs I had personally chosen and I explained the concept for such an album. Kathy was all for the idea and said it was very good indeed - Next I showed them a letter I had recieved from Mr Grillo that very morning, things could'nt have planned out better - This is the textcof the letter which I considered most encouraging and even Bing autographed it after reading it.

BING CROSBY PRODUCTIONS INC
HOLLYWOOD - NEW YORK - CHICAGO

August 13, 1968

Dear Mr Gaylor;

This is in reply to your letter of August 5 regarding the proposed Crosby album, by request.

The listed tunes are very interesting since I don't believe Bing has recorded any of them. We will submit your list in a few areas where there has been interest and see what happens.

Sincerely - BASIL F GRILLO. President.

So friends I do hope something develops. Bing seemed interested and I said I would like to have put forward as an album title FRIENDLY PERSUASION - I mentioned this as he had done the song for the LONGINES people. Bing said "I don't really know about that as they may not allow it" - He never committed himself but he listened well and certainly Kathy did.

I told Bing that I would have liked him to record a favourite song of mine, THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC - "Hav'nt I done that one before" - "No Bing" I replied, "Not for commercial issue". Kathy said "I've heard you sing it on the radio Bing" - "Yes" he replied.

Among the songs I submitted to Mr Grillo are ;-
I LEFT MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO..BODY AND SOUL..A KISS TO BUILD A DREAM ON.. THE GOOD LIFE..MISTY..SPRING SPRING SPRING..STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT..THE GIRL FROM IPUNEMA..WONDERFUL WONDERFUL DAY..MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE..YOU GO TO MY HEAD and ALL THE WAY, among some others.

I had a chance to ask Bing about the unissued album he done at WESTERN RECORDERS on June 21/26, 1962 - I had him stumped here as he seemed surprised and said, "Are you sure it was released in America but not here", I quoted a few of the songs to help him memorize things but I realised he could'nt tell me much, so we went on to somethi g else.

A minute or two later Kathryn who had left us earlier, now returned and Bing with his hand on his forehead said "I'm trying to think about an album I done at WESTERN RECORDERS in 1962 which Leslie says has never been issued".

We had a talk about the great loyalty of fans over here which impressed them both greatly and of all the work done by Frank Murphy and others in producing magazines and handling much mail and all of a sudden Bing said.....continued over

LESLIE GAYLOR..continues;-

...."I'll send you word next year so as you can hire a hall or somewhere and we can meet the members. I'll send word beforehand". At this statement Kathy said very emphatically, "Look, you tell the members of both clubs that they must come along to the meeting, you tell them"

I replied that if Bing does write to me next year before he comes over I would notify those concerned with running the clubs - if this does develop it will be a sensation for all of us and an event that would stand out in our lifetime.

Bing looked me closely in the eye when I asked him if he would record something for us for Christmas He sensed my plea here and said, "If we're going to record something we ought to look into it as it's August now. So here again friends we can only live in hope, we might get a single but an album would be better - Talking of-what I thought was a fine cover photo on the THOROUGHLY MODERN BING album the 'Ol Master' made me laugh with a typical piece of dry Crosby humour, "Yeah, that's the best part of that album". I said I reckon it will sell well here and the tracks are of the kind that the BBC producers would use on their late night shows. My mention to Bing that I believe Pickwick International would like him to record another album for them brought the encouraging reply "Yes" Kathy said, "I've only heard you sing one song from that album Bing"

Referring to the song STEP TO THE REAR as used on the interview Bing did for LATE NIGHT EXTRA, Kathy said, "What do you think of that recording" and I replied I liked the song alright but that the general view was that the recording balance was wrong and immediately Bing said "Too much orchestra", in the manner that he said this I could tell he was well versed about the recording of this song.

We were discussing the LONGINES recordings and Bing and Kathryn were impressed by my view that no-one can record Bing better than Longines. Kathy said "Where did you you record them" and Bing and I simultaneously uttered "Coast Recorders in San Francsico" Kathy asked Bing if he sang with a live orchestra and he replied "No we used basic orchestral tracks"

Asking Bing about the proposed ROAD TO CHRISTMAS film to be made here, he said that as far as he knew it was only in the talking stage, and when I mentioned that BOB HOPE had revealed in a TV interview here about the film being made here, Bing listened with a very keen ear and he said to me, "Well if he's that keen about it we ought to do something about it". I really was very interested in Bing saying this.

About their holiday in Africa they said it was very fine, not hot, but windy.

Well time had come to say our goodbyes and I was pleased to hear Kathy say that when they had been in Cockermouth she and Bing had talked it over as to how I could get to see them - to think that two such famous people had been so kind as to be interested in me, just one of Bing's great admirers clearly showed to me what wonderful people they really are.

I thanked them both for jointly autographing the copy of BING AND OTHER TH NGS they had sent me earlier and Kathy said "Do you like it"? As Bing was autographing the copy of FILMS IN REVIEW that Fred Romary sent me, Kathy said "Oh I hav'nt seen that book"and she glanced through it with much interest. Bing said "I've got a copy home".

We then shook hands and they went to the reception desk and I turned to give a final wave a feeling came over me that Bing and Kathy are such wonderful people, they certainly gave me a day to remember and next year I hope it will be your turn.

There is no doubt that Kathy is all for Bing's career as during our conversation over members and myself getting plugs in Kathy nodded her head saying "Yes you keep it going" and she was more than pleased to learn that Longines were going to give me a gift set of Bing's new set for them - "Well you have helped Longines as well as Bing" she said

I was very pleased on or two other leading Crosbyites got to see Bing on this trip and I hope that my good friend REG BRISTO will finally get to see his idol....LG

THE NEGATIVE "MR C" by Frank Murphy

"With Bing these days they have to be content with what they get" DON WOOLLAND- September 1966. Don and I were looking through a batch of photo proofs we had just received from the Newcastle Evening Chronicle. We were planning a special souvenir set to commemorate the memorable visit by Bing and Kathryn to COCKERMOUTH and as the Chronicle had been through on numerous occasions we felt they could help. They should have been able to help, certainly they had taken plenty of photos of the illustrious duo and whilst Kathryn came through with shining honours I'm afraid Bing let the side down - out of approximately 20 different poses only one looked worthy enough for the eventual souvenir set, the others had Bing in the most awful poses, even more poker faced than ever on most and looking as if he couldint care less. The final summing up would appear to back up Don's view and in the final selection the main group of photos used were the actual photos taken by Don himself in Augnust 1966 - It may well be that Bing, with so many years of being photographed and the flashing of those flash cameras is now sick and tired of the whole business - it would seem he will make a little more effort on certain occasions as when Bing viewed the shots taken by Don, he remarked "Good photographer" - at the same time and in the same week, just three days later, as Jack Shaw and Les Phythian will endorse that Bing was heard to snap "No more pictures" to a group of fellows who were leaping around and taking pictures without his full approval - a mistake if ever one was made.

JOHN MAUGHAN has remarked on more than one occasion "He does'nt smile much" and those of us who have had the priviledge of spending time in Bing's personal company will endorse this - at the same time it must be understood that for the majority of Crosby fans a mental picture of the smiling carefree Bing must have been built up through the years, it would'nt do to have Bing scowling down from a movie would it, or sounding miserable as he sings LET A SMILE BE YOUR UMBRELLA but just like you and I, in his private life and away from parties and social events, Bing has the right to look just as miserable as you and I must often look. But by the same token it must be felt by all concerned that when the maestro is posing for the press, even a half hearted smile would be better than some of the really dreadful shots to see light of day recently....

To switch cameras, but still dealing with THE NEGATIVE "MR C", I'd like if may to comment on Bing's Guest spots on other stars TV shows - I've already talked about THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW, I thoroughly enjoyed this and have often said it's good to see Bing in any kind of show - but following close on the heels of this show was THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW and whilst it was a great thrill and a great pleasure to have the opportunity of seeing the maestro once again, I felt he did'nt show up half so well this time. I'm in agreement with KEITH HYDE that it'a about time a little more imagination was used in these important Crosby guest spots, in this show Bing was as relegated as he ever could be, much of his solo dialogue was inaudible and a star of much less stature Lena Horne was allowed to over-shadow the Crosby might, in fact her whole appearance gave me the impression that she wondered who Bing Crosby was - but again Bing could have been at fault here, for he is notorious at allowing himself to play second fiddle and whilst this might pay off in pictures, in TV the star is the star -

During a discussion in England a couple of years ago in which Bing was being asked to make a guest appearance on a popular late night show, Bing queried, "Singing?" and agreed to do the show when assured there would be no singing required.....justly so, Bing has the right to agree to non-singing guest spots if he wishes, he also has the right to make guest appearances on other stars shows doing the same well worn medley's which we all agree have plenty of meat, but hasten to add, very little gravy, and finally we agree the maestro has the right to have his photo taken poker faced - we will of course always enjoy his non-singing interviews, the well worn medley's and the dreadful pics - but to be really honest with ourselves, we'd all much prefer the DEVELOPED NEGATIVE from"MR C"

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TO FRID FROM FRUNK

by FRED REYNOLDS

It is not, you will understand, my purpose to give concern to the many regular readers who rejoice in happy association but I must report that my relations with the editor are becoming less cordial. And it is all his fault. We used to be so friendly: "Murphy", I would say, "that's a good little magazine you've got; well done my good man." "Thank you kindly," he would instantly reply touching his cap, "you are the brightest jewel in its crown." What then has caused the rift in the rapport? Nothing less than that secretly, underhandedly, he has been taking instruction on how to type.

For many years I held the undisputed distinction of being the world's worst typist the opprobrium from which kept me awake at night for long seconds. I held the championship against all comers, was even worse than the office typist and possibly the most stupendous failure since the Edsel motor car. Then one day long ago, out of the blue of the night, I received my first letter from Frank. It filled me with pleasure; quite apart from the sunny nature of the contents I gazed with rapture at the pages and if it wasn't a real psychedelic experience it was the nearest thing to it without actually taking LSD. "Deer Frid" it began, "I wus hippyt§ git etc. etc". You will be quick to see what a boost this was to my ailing ego. After much perseverance I had reached, with the "pick and peck" system, a top speed of fourteen words a minute with only seven errors but I still couldn't persuade myself that I was good. All practice had brought nothing but despair but now, in a trice, the whole scene was changed. The spelling in Frank's letter was of such appalling insensitivity and the appearance of it so bizarre that the task of deciphering it might have seemed hopeless. Not so but far otherwise and atrophied indeed would my imagination have been if it had not leapt at the prospect held out: the letter would have repaid not only deciphering but setting to music.

That first letter became for me a thing of beauty to exceed anything that inspired Keats. I had it framed and set in a prominent position and whenever I felt low would look fondly upon it. So through the years our correspondence blossomed. Early letters from him were decoded only after numerous alphabetical permutations and invariably contained the "Frid" salutation and the concluding "Weby jest vithes, Frunk". When I once mentioned to Frank that I had somehow managed to get my finger stuck between L,;,O and P he cheerfully urged me "nit to worry" as he had twice had his thumb under the roller. It is true, of course, that my own success was still less than total but I recall fondly how I sent him a subscription when I thought he was starting another club for somebody called "Wing Crumby". I remember, too, that he once informed me that a new record had been issued in the CLP series and I had a large City store turn out three branches and a warehouse before I realised he meant CBS. That was my fault, of course, for by now we know each other's form and our only real difficulties were caused by vital words being correctly typed. It came as no surprise when he referred to "the immoral Bing" as in our two-man super league one dropped letter presents no problem at all but a starnger reading our correspondence would never crack the code. If SMERSH had used the system it would have driven 007 out of business before he could say "Dr. No". "Dear Frunj" I would say, "Di let me knew whin to send thi stenvil", and he would reply "Dwar Frid, Kot mr jabe ut as qyiclly ad piddable". (You see how superior was my skill). In "Call me lucky" Bing said he was variously called "Bing Crovony" and "Tim Crosland" but Frank's letters reach imaginative heights reserved only for rarer minds. I rather liked his "Bang Bromby" and his succulent reference to Bing's recording of "Mu oslo if gilded creams" was most refreshing. Later when Frank told me that he would "white before Xmaz" I realised that he had struck yet again.

A friend of mine, a director of a small firm of stationers, lets me have Correctine cheaply and usually sends me a complimentary bottle for each article I

write. I understand that Frank raised some funds for the club by selling my colourful stencils as abstract works of art reminiscent of Pablo Picasso's pink period. It will, I am sure, be difficult for you to keep a dry eye in your appreciation of my extreme concern in receiving from the perfidious Murphy recent letters showing a marked improvement in his typing ability. Not only does this seriously undermine the esoteric value of our exchanges but it also relegates me to my former position. I can conclude only that he is jealous of my skill and has resorted to secret lessons and practice or that he has just discovered that he should remove his gloves (sneer, sneer). Unfortunately just as I was about to say something really nasty and work in a little appropriate invective I find that I have come to thi and ob my lazt byttle af cOrrictyne flued. Jost my lick.

FRID RgYM£lDS

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EDITORS NOTE:

I really must thank Frid for this excellent piece-excellent in every way and once again it had Alma and I laughing our heads off over breakfast, and if you've never laughed your head off over breakfast, you should try it sometime - it beats putting sugar on cornflakes.....I could go on but we must keep our circulation ..... It was good to see you at Leeds recently Fred and it's a pleasure to incorporate the news item you sent

"THE HOUSE IS HAUNTED"

The recording of "The House Is Haunted" was most probably from a Woodbury broadcast of 28th May 1934 when Bing was accompanied by Jimmy Grier's Orchestra. Fred says that this information was given to him by Les Phythian.....

Fred closed his letter by sending appreciated good wishes to Alma and I on the pending happy event and closed his letter ....."and I hope that all turns out well. Of course you could confound everyone by having the first North-country sextuplets". Fred was'nt the only one taking the mickey at this time - my 'guvnor' at the Empire Jarrow rang for the figure only the evening before and asked what I'd do if it were sextuplets - I replied, "Guvnor, I'd ask you to arrange midnight matinees every night for the next 6 months - I'd not dare go home".... But as most of you know by now. On October 14th Alma and I were blessed with a fine 8lb 6oz boy who was christened Paul at St Cuthbert's RC Church on Sunday November 3rd, club member Eddie Purcell standing as Godfather and I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking most sincerely all the club members who wrote or phoned in their good wishes.

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Looking around for a short item to fill the rest of Frid's page, I thought the following letter from Californian member filled the page and the bill well

LA PUENTE - CALIFORNIA
12 October 1968

Dear Friend Frank;

Received the latest (Aug 5 1968) issue of "Bing" fairly recently and have greatly enjoyed it from cover to cover. One thing that's been bugging me for a long time is your continued misspelling of the word strength; it always comes out 'strenth' in the magazine and, of course, is always wrong. It can't be a typographical error because it has never (to my knowledge) been spelled correctly in "Bing". You don't mind a bit of constructive criticism, do you?

Your Californian Member, EDDIE RICE

EDITORS NOTE:
Your mini-discog is en route Eddie and of course I don't mind your constructive criticism - your good wishes for the continued success of the club are appreciated and as a result of your letter Ed, we will definately now go from "strenth" to STRENGTH.....

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* A PERSONAL LETTER *
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BING CROSBY HOLLYWOOD October 13, 1968

Dear Frank;

Thanks for your letter. I've sent the photo off to Johnny Jones in Ireland. I hope it proves suitable for him.

Also, thank you for forwarding on the gift from your friend, Samuel Sternberg, in Israel. Very pretty little thing, and I know Kathryn will enjoy it. She's presently in a play in Chicago for four weeks - a play in which Mary Frances has a small part. They should be home soon.

No real definate news, Frank, about a film in the immediate future. Several things under consideration, but they are merely conjectural. I have been doing a great deal of TV work - Specials, and the Hollywood Palace, golf tournaments and American Sportsman- things like that.

They don't sound as important as a good film, but actually, a well received television show plays to many, many more people than does a film. But I'm like you - I'd rather be in a film than television, but the right thing just has'nt come along.

Thank you anyhow, for your good wishes, Frank -

.....Warmest regards

signed BING

BC:Im Bing Crosby

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OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
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* COMING UP ON THE RAILS *
* "THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY" *
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Special acknowledgment to;
DONALD WILLIAMSON -
REG BRISTO
FRED ROMARY

When the ICC stepped to 'save it's bacon' in October 1965, few people shared our view that this group, with correct guidence and care could grow into a very worthwhile group serving the needs of a whole lot of people in all parts of the world who were still interested in the better kinds of music, who wanted to know more about stars like BOWLLY, FOX, STONE, etc on the British scene, and VALLEE, MILLER, JOLSON and CROSBY on the American scene - in saving the group from virtual collapse, and that's what we did, even we did'nt foresee the great things that were to happen in just three short years -

The tattered file which came into our possession boasted just over 100 names and after we sorted through this we found there were only 30 genuine paid-up members in the whole group. We dispenced with the scroungers, the hangers on, you know, people who would forever take everything and give nothing and so we sent the first issue of THE GOLDEN YEARS to these 30 members of the new group which now quite rightly appeared by courtesy of the ICC - in due course, along came REG BRISTO and at this stage 'Mr B' needs no intro, it's enough to say that he controls ENTIRELY the reading content of the present 60 page quarterly editions of THE GOLDEN YEARS - The continuing appraisal of the ever growing readership justify's our full endorsement of Reg's ability. and setting the seal on the growing popularity of the magazine is the new found talent of our man in New York, Mr FRED ROMARY - the cover on the October 25th edition of the GY's features a great photo of that great star of the 20's GENE AUSTIN, and in January we feature another legendary figure

of the golden erea of popular music, RUSS COLUMBO, this rare shot will bring back memories of the early reported fued al la Bingo, the backing photo cover will feature that giant of the clarinet BENNY GOODMAN as a support to the first instalment of The Benny Goodman Story by Al Thompson.

The success of the GY's magazine is reflected in the satisfaction of the readers and their recomendation of the club to their friends and associates - leading the overseas field is again AUSTRALIA. A highlight of enrolments in that country is spotlighted by a letter dated Sept 8 from ROY PERRY of Victoria 3148 which contained enrolments for himself, RON HANSEN of Victoria 3124 and ROY COLDICOTT of Victoria 3198 - and still in Australia, Trevor Cleavor wrote on Oct 20, "Just received both "Bing" and "The Golden Years" magazines - well worth the outlay and very informative". Other overseas collectors of note to come into our group include ROBERT VANLATHEM, Belgium and JACOB SCHNEIDER, USA, whilst in England it was a special thrill to enrol non other than DENIS NORDEN - Down in Keighley, Yorkshire, DONALD WILLIAMSON, our official rep in that area, has been responsible for for a magnificient piece of publicity for our 30's group, quite the most important to come the way of the group during our control. The event, aptly named, THE FAB 30's BALL, took place in the Victoria Hall, Keighley, on October 18th under Donald's personal control. REG BRISTO was our main pep there and special guests heading a magnifient sellout of over 600, included LEW STONE, NAT GONELLA and TINY WINTERS. The event was such a tremendous succes that a further 'Ball' has had to be arranged to cater for those who were dissapointed at not being able to get tickets for the first. At the second 'Ball' it is hoped to have personal appearances by ROY FOX and DENNY DENNIS, so you can see things are happening in a really big way and of course all of this publicity is of tremendous help to our actual enrolment of new members and subscribers to the club magazines - a letter from DONALD WILLIAMSON dated October 29th enclosed subs for no less than 5 new club members, all in the Keighley area, which thanks to Don and his team in that area is fast becoming a strongpoint for our 1930's group.

To sum up. As you will surmise from the above report, THE 1930's RECORD SOCIETY is no longer the poor relation of the ICC, indeed it is now fully self supporting and remains, as it has done since our take-over, quite independant of the ICC. The main benefit of the 30's group to the ICC is that many of the people who write enquiring about the 30's club show great interest in our Bing group and a goodly percentage join both of our clubs - a situation that makes us very happy indeed for this means a double boost to our actual membership and also gives those members who take both magazines a very good service magazine-wise inasmuch as they then receive, courtesy of the ICC a power packed 60 page approx magazine 8 times each year, which, when you realise is wholely produced as a non-profit making hobby, is solid value indeed - We'd like to thank the Editors of TETLOWS VINTAGE RECORD GUIDE, PETE SEAGO'S RSVP, THE CROSBY COLLECTOR, THE STREET SINGER, for valuable reference to our 30's group - we will be happy to accept further enrolments from registered ICC members, but because of a very heavy period of enrolment due to the 30's Ball at Keighley, we regret that the October issue of THE GOLDEN YEARS is now unavailable and the next enrolment period will commence with the JANUARY 25th 1969 issue of THE GOLDEN YEARS. Membership rates are as follows - British Isles and Commonwealth 17/6 anually - USA 2dollars50cents anually

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CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR BING AND KATHRYN

+++ CLOSING
+++ DATE
+++
+++ DECEMBER 1st

Members of the ICC are once again invited to make a donation to the club's annual Chrstmas present fund for Bing and Kathryn - Please send your donations and suggestions direct to Frank Murphy by the closing date of December 1st - a full list of donators etc will appear in the next issue of this magazine;-

"BING" CROSBY SHOPPE

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FOR SALE:
Your offers are invited for Part One of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY..Discography- direct to Bill Bell, 39 Scrogg Road, Walkergate, Newcastle on Tyne 6 by the closing date January 1st 1969;

WANTED:
6 copies of THE INCREDIBLE CROSBY (item No 114 in last issues auction) prices ranging from £2 to £5 maximum offered (winning bid £6 Brenda Miles) If you have copies of this or any other Crosby book for sale, buyers are waiting via this column.

FOR SALE:
Icc Vol 7 - 7" LP)pressing(THE TV MR BING featuring Bing as guest on THE DEAN MARTIN and THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW - price 24/- direct from Frank Murphy.

TAPE SERVICE:
Top quality tape service, all the latest by Bing on TV, plus a terrific selection of early material, KRAFT MUSIC HALL, CHESTERFIELD RADIO, PHILCO etc available at very reasonable cost direct from BOB ROBERTS (address in list of officers)

FOR SALE
Watford member 'Wag' Bowerman advises an excellent photo of Bing and Kathryn taken during their London visit this year - 10 x 8 price 7/6 direct from Thompson Newspapers, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

FOR SALE
Discographical Workshop Publications have just issued (September 1968) No One in a series of Artist Alphabetical Listings, this first issue features English Columbia CB 1 Series - CB1 March 1930 to CB819 Febuary 1935. Price 12/6 direct from Jim Hayes 22 Empire Rd, Liverpool L21 8HR. Jim also requires a number of recordings by GUY LOMBARDO AND HIS ROYAL CANADIANS, list on application.

FOR SALE:
Looking for a suitable gift for Christmas? In addition to over 200 spare BING CROSBY records, Alan Lurie 22 St James Rd, Salford M7 0XW has half a dozen copies of the EP MERRY CHRISTMAS BRU OE 9070. These copies are the special Christmas Gift Packs and are for sale at 10/- each post free. Members are asked to send a SAE which will be used to return money to those unsuccessful in obtaining copies - Members requiring lists of other disposals are asked to send a large SAE.

OFFER
"One of our fans wants TRADE WINDS, another is chasing BUDDY CAN YOU SPARE A DIME I have both of these twice and would like to get this over to the folks concerned - they can have the record or Iwill tape same for them" so writes Larry Shannon 6 Wellington Cres, Old Trafford, Manchester 16, Lancs - a very generous gesture on Larry's part and at the time of writing he urgently requires a copy of the book FILMS IN REVIEW, the issue that contained the mamoth Crosby coverage.

FOR SALE
Sound film BILLBOARD GIRL starring Bing Crosby plus an extensive list of Bing on record on the Victor, Columbia, Brunswick and Decca labels including a rare copy of FACE THE MUSIC MEDLEY - offers to Harry Fulmer 21 State Str, Mahwah, N.J. 07430, USA

FOR SALE:
Many interesting record sets featuring great stars of the 20's and 30's are available from THE NOSTALGIA BOOK CLUB 525 Main Str, New Rochelle. NY 10801 USA - principal of this group Neil McCaffrey has recently filed with both our groups and it is felt an air mail letter from our members will benefit their collections.

Dorothy Hardiman's
AMERICAN AIRMAIL - direct from Mountain View, California

October 27th.1968

Dear Frank.

Many thanks for your prompt reply to my letter, I'm happy to have re-established contact with you and lo k forward to receiving the current issue of the journal. Meanwhile I will send all news-items I come across. I'm learning to drive and if it's possible to get my licence soon, I'll go over to Redwood City when Bing is there.

Please give Alma my very best. I know the newcomer is going to have a wonderful home and loving parents. My daughter Jean is expecting her third around Nov 20th. We are hoping it's a girl because the other two are boys, 7 years and 5 years. They live in Colorado now.

Congratulations on the continueing success of the club and many more happy years ahead - I hope the members enjoy the following news clippings;-

San Jose Mercury October 20.
BING CROSBY AT MARINE WORLD
Bing Crosby will be the host and star of a half hour musical variety special set in ABC Marine World, American Broadcasting Company, Inc's new multi million dollar education and amusement centre in Redwood City. Scheduled for telecast on ABC-TV in Febuary, the special also stars the hit singing group THE RASCALS, KATHRYN CROSBY and ANISSA JONES, 'Puffy' of televisions 'Family Affair. Not least among the featured players will be Marine World's own cast of champion water skiers and performing dolphins, Whales and seals who daily entertain the thousands of visitors to the 60 acre park complex.

San Jose Mercury October 28.
CROSBY, MAYS TOP 'LUCKY' PRO-AM
San Francisco - Popular Bing Crosby and Giants center fielder Willie Mays will head the field of 150 amatuers who tee off Wednesday in the Pro-Amatuers section of the Lucky International golf tournament at Harding Park. Fifty top professionals will be competing for a share of the $5,000 purse in the prelude to the 72 hole $100,000 Lucky International championship which gets under way Thursday.

ALL THE SPECTACULAR OF FILM FESTIVAL
Trio of guests at the World premier of THE SERGEANT included Richard Kavich with Mr and Mrs Bing Crosby (photo) The cinema marked the opening of the 12th Annual San Francisco International Film Festival.

(second clipping covering the same event)
The celebrity roster of arrivals included Bing Crosby who introduced the emcee Gene Kelly who in turn introduced Rita Hayworth, John Cassevetes, Mai Zetterling and Lillian Gish.

SAN JOSE MERCURY October 25.
10pm - "THE OUTSIDER" on Channels 4 and 8 is pre-empted for THE BING CROSBY SHOW, a one hour special with BOB HOPE as guest star. The two return to Paramount Studios expecting to make another 'Road' picture, but wind this television show.

The combination of Bing Crosby and Bob Hope always results in some pleasant moments and the two old battlers were busily engaged in insulting each other during the Crosby Special. In addition there were some interesting moments against the studio backgrounds. One came when Diana Ross and the Supremes sang a Western dirge on a Western main street scene set while stunt men tumbled in the dust around them. Stella Stevens had a cute number in which she evoked memories of the great days and the big stars of the flicks before sound.

END

NOTES OF THE MEETING

by FRED REYNOLDS

Reg is late, should have been here by ten and it's nearly half-past. Ah, here he comes - a quick cuppa and we'll be off. Lost your way in Birmingham, eh Reg? Well you're not the first, let's hope we don't get lost on the way to Leeds. Which way? A.46, M.1 and it's motorway and A.1 through to Michael Crampton's. There's the route - you're the navigator. Natter, natter and 142 miles and under three hours later we're at Whinmoor, past the "Squinting Cat" and at Langbar Sq.

Hello, Michael, yes we're fine and you? Fine, too, but just rushing off to Leeds Radio Station to record an item for a local programme - won't be long, enjoy your lunch. Michael's soon back - excellent recording but, calamity, they hadn't a single Bing recording at the Station and Michael will have to loan one. But first, just time for a quick dash to Mick Drury's before the other guests arrive. Who's this? The Newcastle contingent arriving - jump in Frank we're off to Mick's. Great to meet you Mick after years of "Tape Crosby" - examine his recording machines and he talks "technical" - humiliating consciousness of my own ignorance in such matters. So long Mick, all best, and back to Langbar Sq. Plenty of members here now - meet Vic Gilmore, Frank Briggs (watch that figure, Frank) and happy new sub-editor Alf Farrow, all from Hull. There's Bill Bell and Ken Robinson from Newcastle with Frank who's also brought two new young members, Bob Jones and Eddie Purcell, who work in Frank's cinema - no real coercion to join Club, only Frank's whispered "redundancy". Cheerful Ken Hoyle from Spa country looking pleased with life and here's Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ashurst from Wigan (a place not to be lightly regarded and what better to come from?) What's that about a letter, Frank? The one you wrote to the magazine some months ago waxing indignant about something I wrote? You thought I might assault you? Come, come, I am a very tolerant man with an unconquerable impulse to forgive and forget insult and injury. The fact, laddie, that I sensed right away that you are about twice my size has nothing to do with it. Now Michael's doing the honours and playing some Bing - he's made a very effective display and what an excellent collection he has, not even considering his youth - he's even got the Safeways and WLSM issues - good going Michael. Here's a tape, prepared by Mick Drury, of request items with a wide variety of "Bing" periods and the linking commentary by Mick is first rate. Must chat to Billy Bell back from Australia after two years sojourn - so you met many of my old friends out there - I certainly envy you the experience. Jack Feather, George and Irene Smith, for whom everything is a great big Yorkshire "luvly", thoroughly enjoying the proceedings. Mrs. McNamara and her brother Kevin - what's that Mrs. M? because Bing is the best why bother with records of anyone else? I suppose you can believe that if you try hard but it's an argument I would swiftly demolish if this was definitely <u>not</u> the time and place. Hello Arnold Pope from Manchester - no, I know of only one take of "Memories" - Michael, play these two copies that Arnold's brought - everybody quiet, now. You're right, they are different and the team discog needs an addition. Quick, Arnold, put away that "C.C." mag, Murphy's looking this way and turning a funny colour. Here's a film soundtrack item, says Michael, Bing singing "The house is haunted" - never heard of that in a film, must find out more about it. Speech of thanks from Frank Murphy (the Durante of the typewriter) and announcement that he is expecting, in a couple of weeks, to become a father for the fifth time - he looks so smug until I casually mention the Thorns sextuplets and how in Birmingham they have half-dozen at a time. That's shaken him but he recovers sufficiently to sell ICC Club ties - and now, if you please, he's taking orders for suits to match the ties.

What, is that the time already? Before we go pose for photographs with happy Alf clicking away and George practising his expertise with Polaroid, producing perfect prints presto. Cheerio all - come on Reg. Sincere thanks to Michael for warm hospitality and especially to his mum for all her hard work. Where's that "Cockeyed Cat" pub (landmark only - I'm driving). Natter, natter, - we're on the wrong road - extra 30 miles and a round trip of 315 miles for a most enjoyable day. Tired, Reg? Just a few Bing tracks for a final session -- and so to bed.

CANADIAN AIRMAIL by

JEAN-PAUL FREREAULT

METIERS OU HOBBYS INSOLITES

IL A AMASSE 2000 DISQUES DE BING CROSBY

IL AIMERAIT MIEUX MOURIR QUE DE PERDRE SA COLLECTION DE DISQUES

Quand un homme a consacre la moitie de sa un ideal et que tous les moments de loisir de son existence sont orientes en ce sens, il est logique qu'il ne vive que pour cela. C'est le cas de M. Jean-Paul Frereault, de ville de Laval qui, lui, collectionne tout ce qui se rapporte au celebre chanteur American Bing Crosby.

A deux ou trois exceptions pres, M. Frereault possede un exemplaire de tous les disques enrigistres par l'illustre crooner et cela constitue une imposante discotheque de pres de 2000 disques differents.

A premiere vue, on peut etre sceptique quant a ce chiffre, mais on ne l'est plus quand M. Frereault nous explique que certains disques ont ete presses et vendus en Australie ou au Japon par exemple et que nous n'en avons jamais entendu parler en Amerique. Mais grace a une correspondance assidue avec des collectionneurs de ces pays M. Frereault est parvenu, a longueur de temps, a posseder la collection la plus complete au monde. C'est probablement pourquoi il nous affirme qu'il preferait presque mourir plutot que d'en departir.

Si M. Frereault a choisi de collectionner les disques de Bing Crosby, ce n'est pas seulement dans le but d'avoir un ''hobby'' mais c'est surtout parce qu'il voue une admiration sans borne a cet artiste, et cela depius son enfance; et cette admiration ne se limite pas aux disques mais egalement a tout ce qui se rapporte a Bing Crosby.

C'est ainsi qu'a sa residence, dans une oiece baptisee Bing Crosby, nous retrouvons un peu de tout sur cet artiste, comme en font foi les quelques details suivants.

M. Frereault possede une collection complete de musique en feuille de toutes las chansons de Bing Crosby. Il possede un ''scrap book'' special consacre aux chansons de Bing qui ont paru dans les ''Song Hits'' americains.

IL CORRESPOND AVEC BING.

Il possede six imposants cahiers remplis de decoupures de jpurnaux et de revues ou il est question de chanteur. Un autre cahier contient toute une serie de photos et legendes de son idole. Il possede egalement sur rubans la serie complete de toutes les emissions radiophoniques de Bing Crosby ainsi qu'une bonne partie de ses films qui sont passes a la television.

Il possede de plus une copie d'un disque dont il ne reste que trois copies au monde et qu'il a reussi a obtenie d'un collectionneur americain. Ce disque avait ete retire du marche en 1932 par suite d'une defectuosite technique.

Il possede un album special de photographies autographees de Bing Crosby,

ainsi que de nombreuses lettres personnelles car il correspond avec lui, et aussi un exemplaire dedicace du livre de Kathy Crosby sur son illustre epoux.

QUI EST JEAN-PAUL FREREAULT?

M. Frereault est un employe de la canadair depuis 27 ans, soit depuis les premieres annees de son mariage, mais auparavant il avait chante dans les cabarets, pendant une douzaine d'annees, et c'est ce qui explique son gout prononce pour le chant.

Bing Crosby avait toujours exerce une forte influence sur lui, non seulement a cause de sa voix mais aussi a cause de sa personnalite, et cet engouement a toujours ete en augmentant.

Au tout debut de son mariage, son epouse qui connaissait son admiration pour ce chanteur, lui avait offert un tourne-disques en cadeau et aussitot M. Frereault s'etait empresse d'aller acheter pour IO dollars de disques, ce qui etait tout de meme considerable a cette epoque puisqu'il y a 30 ans de cela. A compter de ce moment-la, il se mit a visiter tous les magasins de disques de la metropole, de la province, puis de l'Ontario et meme de certaines villes americains, toujours en quete d'un enregistrement qu'il ne possedait pas.

UNE VRAIE PASSION

M. Frereault est une vraie mine de renseignments au sujet de Bing Crosby. Il connait a fond toutes ses activites artistiques et meme privees, Il est feru de statistiques et il peut nous parler de son idole pendant des heures. Pour M. Frereault c'est le seul chanteur qui merite son attention, au point qu'il ne possede aucun autre disque, a part ceux de Bing Crosby.

Nous lui avons demande si les autres membres de sa famille (son epouse, ses deux filles et ses deux garcons) avaient le meme culte pour Bing Crosby et la reponse fut des plus affirmatives. M. Frereault est le representant Canadian du International Crosby Circle et du Crosby Collector de Londres, et il entretient une correspondence dans toutes les parties du monde.

Il va sans dire qu'a la maison, c'est toujours des disques de Crosby que l'on entend a moins que ce ne soit une emission de television ou il est en vedette. Le sujet n'etait pas gai mais npus avons quand meme demande a M. Frereault ce qu'il adviendrait de sa collection a sa mort et il nous a repondu; ''Chacun de mes quatre enfants desire ma collections et j'ignore encore en favour duquel sera fait mon testament mais chose certaine, c'est que deja j'ai indique clairement que ma collection ne pouvait etre vendue et qu'elle devait se leguer de pere en fils apres ma mort.''

M. Frereault correspond regulierement avec Bing Crosby mais il n'a jamais eu le bonheur de la rencontrer. Toutefois, il nous confie que l'ete prochain, son reve se realisera enfin car il doit se rendre en Californie et alors il ira lui rendre visite, ce qui constituera le couronnement de ses 20 ans de recherches sur son idole

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A letter sent to George Mitchell of Black and White Minstrel fame complimenting him on the programme ''Tribute to Irving Berlin'' and suggesting that he may consider a ''Tribute to Bing Crosby'' programme, brought forth this reply :- ''Your kind comments regarding the Black and White Minstrel are greatly appreciated and I will certainly bear your suggestion in mind when compiling the music for a further show'' GREAT!

THE PETER WILSON COLUMN

I wonder how many club members and other Bing fans knew that the ''OLD GROANER'' himself was actually in this country in August for a 6-day visit? I knew nothing about it until the ''Daily Mirror'' published an article on his last day here. This article was headed ''THE QUIET AMERICAN'' and I quote:- So quietly that you may hear a hand-out drop, Bing Crosby leaves London today after a six-day stay. Not for him the high decibel hysteria or waves of nostalgia. With record sales of over 200 million and a personal fortune from films, television, oil, race-horses and six banks estimated at £30 million the old groaner is now more prepared to knock himself out for the pars of golf than of publicity. Courteously, he made as much clear when Inside Page spoke with him yesterday at that stately pull-up for stars the Connaught hotel, London.
He explained that his visit here, following a safari in East Africa, combined business and pleasure. Crosby's immediate destination after Britain is Portugal where he will spend two days with his wife, actress Kathryn Grant. Then back to an America in the grip of election fever. ''I have my little vote and that's it'' he says. ''I don't think that actors know all that much about Politics.''
Appropriately, he confesses to an unfulfilled ambition to play Benjamin Franklyn. The original Wise American. And there was not even a mention on TV about this visit!

On July 23rd. on Radio 2 Bing was guest on the programme ''Be My Guest'' (in this case Bing really was host!). It was a half hour show on which Bing talked about his career and played some favourite records. He said one of the earliest recordings he made was ''You took advantage of me'' made in the late 1920's. I'd never heard of it, but he certainly had a high pitched voice in those days!
Here on Teeside on July 2nd. I don't think it stopped raining for 24 hours. On I.T.V. news that evening they showed many parts of the area flooded out and the background music to these scenes ? Bing singing ''Blue Skies''!!

Whenever radio personality Hubert Gregg is doing a record programme you can just about guarantee that he'll play a Bing record. On ''I remember it well'' series on Radio 3 Mr. Gregg plays records on various subjects. Last week it was MONEY (everybody's subject!). He played Bing's great standard ''Pennies from Heaven'' - I thought he may have played ''Buddy can you spare a dime''.

Reg Bristo says his 17 year old daughter has been listening to Bing for 12 years or more - that means she has been a Bing fan from 5 years of age. Well, my own daughter (now 8 years) heard plenty of Bing since birth! If on eof his records has been on the radio whilst I've been out, she always runs to tell me the minute I come home! When we have her out shopping and we pass a record shop she pulls my coat sleeve ans says,'' Come on Dad, let's see if they have any Bing records in here!

I noticed a letter from a Mrs. Fell in Darlington in the mag. She wrote a about a meeting at her home on October 6th. I did write to her expressing my interest, but unfortunately I was unable to attend on that date.
A club member fromIreland writes to say that a few years ago he recalls seeing Bing in a short film - ''Down Memory Lane''. I too, remember this film (about 20 minutes run). Bing was in two scenes - in one he sings in a

night club and in the other - guess! - a bath-tub! I don't recall the songs but both scenes were very short.

In the last 3 months we have had plenty of Bing records on radio and 3 films on T.V. and as Christmas draws near we should get even more.

July 2...BLUE SKIES (background music during T.V. scene on newsreel)
15...NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT.
21...Film....ROAD TO BALI....B.B.C.I.
25...BING plays host in ''Be my guest'' and plays:-
YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ME.
SOME OF THESE DAYS.
STARDUST.
DINAH.
LITTLE ONE.
LEARN TO CROON.
MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU.
24...Film...EMPEROR WALTZ...colour B.B.C.2.
Aug 3...TRUE LOVE.
4...HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN.
9...Film...MR. MUSIC.....I.T.V.
12...BUSY DOING NOTHIN'.
14...THANKS.
18...GONE FISHIN'.
23...STARDUST.
Sept 5...BELLS OF ST. MARY'S.
9...MR. BOOZE.
11...GALWAY BAY.
12...LAZY.
18...NOW YOU HAS JAZZ.
19...MARY..
23...SEPTEMBER IN THE RAIN.
24...WAITER, PORTER and the upstairs maid.
27...TRUE LOVE.
30...HOME COOKIN'.

A small clipping from a book says:- I have just recieved an August issue of discs for Christmas carolling. Foruncately, among them are a couple by Bing the King of Christmas carolling. Worth putting to one side for the festive season, they are Merry Christmas and Christmas Around the World. (M.C.A. 36/8d each)

I could go on writing a lot more, but my Mother-in-law is due to arrive at any time, the dog wants to go for a run, ''Coronation Street'' is on TV and I'm thirsty! - so I'll finish off - looking forward to the next edition of ''BING'' - best regards to all -- Peter Wilson.

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The article in the last issue but one, ''Oh! Dem Golden Records'' was indeed a beautiful writing of common sense coupled with the fervour of feeling which radiated from the words which the donator transcribed from his brilliant mind to the paper. This article and an article in the January issue of 'BING' have a common bond, in a way.
In the January issue the writer (don't know who he is) of 'Bing and the Duet' intimated that to search for the favourite Bing duet would be nigh on impossible! But he mentioned one or two like the duets with the Andrews Sisters and Rosemary Clooney, Al Jolson etc., - Oh, yes and one with Frances Langford! - 'Gipsy Love Song' and 'Falling in love with some-one'.

I have in my mind the delicious 'Slow boat to China' with Rosie, several beauties with the Andrews Sisters, Johnny Mercer, Mills Brothers, Gary, Jane Wyman, Grace Kelly, Louis Armstrong, Mary Martin, and lots of others with wonderful American choirs - apart from the Black and White Minstrels I contend that nobody can do choral work like the Americans! But for me Frances Langford in 'Gipsy Love Song' is the greatest of them all. Voice blending and orchestral arrangement is absolutely perfect. Simply sung, no frills, a platter of great dinstinction and one, that if I was Bing I would be very proud of it because it is so satisfying in every way.

Now what has all this to do with 'Oh! Dem Golden Records ? I will tell you. It has been a very long standing contention of mine, more years than I care to count off! - that from 1940 onwards Bing has always given of his best and sounded the best when he has been partnered by some other artist or group or choir! Oh! Dem Golden Records goes a very long way towards proving it. Of the "22 " records listed as million sellers no less than 14 are "partner" records! Significant ? - or am I a little prejudiced towards my belief. I think not

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BING WENT THE STRINGS OF HER HEART.

If there's anything I've got to thank Bing Crosby for, it's for beguiling one of my first great loves into becoming incredibly smoochy as we sat in the back row of the local fleapit listening to him sing "Moonlight becomes you" to Dorothy Lamour. So writes Micael Brennan for the News of the World and he goes on to say - Her name, distant memory tells me, was Kate. And that alone makes me susceptible to BING AND OTHER THINGS, a sort of togetherness biography by his wife Kathryn. Otherwise Kate.

Normally, I'd run a mile from any book hailed by the publishers as "charming, a book that will have irresistible appeal to women of all ages!" But I stuck with it and found that it's irresistible appeal to me lay in discovering that, just like any ordinary man, Bing has his problems when it comes to the business of wooing women. He had quite a time before he got Kathryn, a regular beauty contestant from the age of three, to the altar. Not that she played hard to get all the time.

Once, they arranged to marry on Sept. 10. The church was full of reporters TV cameras, the whole works," Kathryn recalls. "And Bing had left his hair-piece in Hollywood. We just didn't feel like running the gauntlet. Why did life have to be so complicated?"

Why indeed ? A bald groom can hardly borrow the bridesmaid's veil, can he ? The start of the courtship had been straightforward enough Kathryn was nipping past Rosemary Clooney's dressing room at the studio, her arms full of petticoats, when out popped Bing and said -- "Howdy, Tex. Whats your rush"? Those were immortal words of love!

Kathryn dropped the petticoats and reports:"got the full voltahe of those robins-egg-blue eyes. After their first date he took her hand in the car and sang "You'd be so easy to love". "My toes went numb. Curiously I'd never had numb toes before," says Kathryn.

Bing the heart-throb too-chiller was a shy courtier. When he visited her flat and couldn't find an ashtry, he put his tobacco embers in his trouser turn-ups. In all, it took 13 months of will you won't you, before they became man and wife. Then the ceremony was interrupted by an hysterical woman. She screamed at Bing: "How dare you marry this tramp?" And at Kathryn:"And you, you bitch, what do you mean, taking away the

 BING WENT THE STRINGS OF HER HEART (continued).....

man I love ?"

Bing told his quivering bride that the woman was an addles fan who had been haunting him for years. "Next time, we'll have to drop the net on her," he promised.

Bride Kathryn was haunted, too, by a blanket on their double bed, with the monogram D.L.C. the initials of Dixie, Bing's first wife who had died years before. A portrait of Dixie, inscribed "To my angel, Bing" stood at the side of the bath.

""I was jealous and wanted to call my mother," Kathryn confesses. "But I was sure she'd say, 'You're married now. You must work out your own problems.'" So Kathryn turned to Bing's mother, and that night, slept under a new, pure white blanket.

They sound a nice couple, the Crosbys. They've been married II years now, and on cold nights, Kathryn goes to bed in tennis socks which she keeps on, until "with a combination slide-twist that required years of diligent practice to master," she slips into her "rightful place," her head on his right shoulder, his arm circling her waist. At one such moment Bing said softly:"I wish we'd been married two years sooner, honey." Expecting the romantic treatment, Kathryn purred:"Yes, yes, my love. Why ?" 'Because Harry would be two years older and I could take him hunting," said the Old Groaner.

The book is published by Herbert Jenkins at 25/-. An acceptable DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS gift it will make, too.

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Memo to JOHN DOBSON....McGlennon song books are a feature of my pad in full - I have several and often look through them to see how many songs therein I can remember! Perhaps John remembers the following words of a song I found in one of them:-

The Gen'ral lost his busby,
He said, "It's Private Crosby,"
When the Guardsman started crooning on parade;
The band played, "Red Hot" rhythm,
They knew the stuff to give 'em,
When the Guardsman started crooning on parade.
The bugler got excited,
He started in to blow;
The troops joined in the chorus
With a hi-di-hi-di-ho,
It seemed the blinking army
Went absolutely balmy,
When the guardsman started crooning on parade.
Written by Eddie Lisbona and Tommie Connor, but I cannot for the life of me recall the tune!.....Alf Farrow.

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WELCOME BACK TO DOT HARDIMAN

The appearance on page 21 of AMERICAN AIRMAIL by Dot Hardiman signals an event of special importance - longstanding members of the club will remember with effection the early formative years of the club and it's true to say that without 'Dot' at the helm in th se days, the now prosperous ICC would just not be in existence - It's go d to have you back Dot.....

THE FRED ROMARY COLUMN

RUDY VALLEE just celebrated another birthday on the MGM backstage where he is doing a film with Elvis.
DANNY THOMAS' daughter Terry to marry Larry Gordon on september 28th.
ANDY WILLIAMS, appearing with Peter Nero will take a break in his concert tour so that Nero can appear at the Tanglewood Music Festival on Aug. 20th.
BOB HOPE: "I was so nervous the other night.....that I surrended during a John Wayne movie."
ALLAN JONES' birthday falls on the same day as son Jack's wedding anniversary. Strangest coincidence is that Jack was born while dad was recording his greatest song for RCA...."Donkey serenade".
PEGGY LEE will cut an album with Cary Grant. She wrote his single hit of last Christmas. The album will contain all songs she has written.
BING CROSBY stated that at a modern museum he visited...."They replaced a statue of the Thinker....with a computer.
BOB HOPE: "Shirley Temple's running for congress awhile back doesn't make us feel nearly as old as Hayley Mills being named in a divorce suit.
BOB HOPE: "They were using campaign posters of Shirley Temple at the moppet age...on the botton they said....Vote for me or I'll hold my breath.

From a 1937 newspaper comes one-line impressions of movie stars:-
JACK BENNY: Is a P.G.Wodehouse book on the shelves of the Waukegan library.
RUDY VALLEE: Is the usher who takes up the church collection on Sundays.
JACK OAKIE: The kid who puts a slug in the basket.
MARLENE DIETRICH: Is a tray of Hors D'oeuvres and rare champagne.

Jewelry and furs valued at 80,000 dollars belonging to Natalie Wood (remember her as a kid with Bing ?)were stolen from the London home of film director Richard Gregson."Many of the items were of great sentimental value to me," she said. "There were gifts from friends all over the world."
20th Fox expects to gross a hundred million dollars from Hello Dolly film.
My bartender complains, "I've got a customer who drinks like Dean Martin and tips like Jack Benny.
DEAN MARTIN has asked his agents to get him a film with Kim Novak.
Advance word on Miss Novak's latest film The Legend of Lylah Clare is it will make her a bigger star than ever. I previewed the film some time back and found it a stiff.
SAMMY DAVIS lined up a group of English stars for a week of charity shows in London for the starving children of Biafra.
DEAN MARTINS and RAQUEL WELCH'S Bandolero big box-office in Cannes France.
LOUIS ARMSTRONG's disc What a wonderful world passed the two million mark in sales.
BING CROSBY: "Bob Hope is busier than a flea on a hippie.

LOVES OLD SWEET SONG.

Saturday August 17, 1968: an ex-barber and his wife gave away their 21 year old daughter Therese in marriage to Paul Tribadeau [illegible] 21.

FRED ROMARY continues.....

services at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Manor Haven, Long Island. Perry looked very young and Roselle looked tired and in slight pain. She viewed events from a wheelchair. She is recovering from surgery and a post-operative blood clot in her leg.
Therese met her bridegroom while she was studying at Centenary College for women, Hackettstown, New Jersey.

Perry, a very gentle soul always, affectionately patted Therese's cheek as they prepared to walk down the aisle. It was all a very touching afternoon, without the usual fanfare of such weddings. After a small reception the couple were off on a honeymoon.

Like 'Tangerine', Helen O'Connell, greatest of the 'band singers', is 'all they claim' at the handsome Rainbow Room up in the clouds. Miss O'Connell, who made history with 'Green Eyes', has an air of youth about her as well as a rare and distinctive style. You don't have to be nostalgic about the Dorsey Brothers era to have a grand time listening to Helen for she's.....despite all the ancient history....very, very now. And you all should hear thos orchestrations.

JOHN FORD wants JOHN WAYNE for his 'Wild Bill' films upon completion of Dukes 'Hellfighters'.
FRED ASTAIRE is raving about little Petula Clark in his Finians Rainbow film.
GUY LOMBARDO says he has never had a season like this one at Jones Beach.
Winners of the second annual FRANK SINATRA Annual Musical Performance Awards (5000 dollars) will be handed the money by Nancy Sinatra Jr. following a concert in which each contestant will be heard in solo performance. Sinatra originally established the awards to help promising students develop their professional careers.

BING CROSBY has done a series of radio spots trying to get the youth of the country to finish school and go on from there.
EDITH HEAD will appear on the Mae West special set for sometime in November.
BOB HOPE..."When a guy sees a beautiful girl.....the first thing he looks at is his wife to see if she noticed him looking.
FRANK SINATRA JR. opens Nov, 29th. Frontier Hotel in Vegas. The club is owned by the same people who own the Sands where Frank Sinatra Sr. was de-two-toothed last season.
BOB HOPE's agent Jim Saphier is now a grandfather.
RCA VICTOR owns 10 sides by one DORE ALPERT recorded some time ago. Dore is none other than HERB ALPERT the Tijuana Brass Golden-gooser. Victor will not release the sides.
BOB HOPE..."One of Bing's kids missed a lesson in his TV educational course....and had to send in a note from his repairman."
PHIL HARRIS...."It's so crowded in Las Vegas, strangers are sharing slot machines.
PHIL HARRIS...."Alice treats my checkbook like a best selling novel ....she won't put it down till she finishes it.
JOE E. LEWIS being helped off a stool at Toots Shor's said "I could see the handwriting on the floor.
BING CROSBY..."I got hold of a really vintage bottle of French champagne. The label had a picture of DeGaulle smiling.
Linda and Jack Morgan made great bandleader RUSS MORGAN a grandpop in Las Vegas.
CBS awhile took over JACKIE GLEASON's Peekskill N.Y. home valued at 300,000 dollars because he was tired of it. They can't unload it anywhere....not even at 250,000.

FRED ROMANY continues.....

PERRY COMO is going the route of the new songs. He wants to cut some contemporary songs a la Modern Bing.
When BING CROSBY sang with Shirley Temple last October 23rd. he wore black suit, white tie....and RED socks you could see a dozen miles away.
DUKE ELLINGTON's 1966 Cote d'Azur was repeated on TV again and each time the music gets zippier. And it never loses its freshness.

If plans go through, there will be seven other BING CROSBY albums out before years end.

There is a Tiny Tim special planned for TV next easter. One guest star considered is STEVE MASON.
BOB HOPE stars on the Mitzi Gaynor show Oct, 14th. The same night as his fall series kicks off.
FRANK SINATRA cheering the Kids From Spain at New Yorks Chateau Madrid.
The PERRY COMO'S have been married 35 years.
Director FRANK CAPRA ailing.
SAMMY DAVIS' dad mending after surgery.
AVA GARDNER is living in FRANK SINATRA'S house at Las Brisas, Acapulco, Mexico. Word around also is Sinatra may be banned from working in Las Vegas ever again. Even though he has a new 3-year deal with Caesars Palace.
BOB HOPE...."I've seen the latest womens bathing suits...and this is going to be the year when a woman who has nothing to wear...wears it!"
BOB HOPE..."I saw a sign over some of Crosby's old records in a record shop....Used records for sale for sale for sale...."
BING CROSBY...."Kathryn often says children are spoiled because parents won't spank grandma."
JACK BENNY...."The only time women are thrifty is when they're putting candles on their birthday cakes.
BOB HOPE...."And a bachelor is a guy who wakes up in the morning with all of the blanket.
PERRY COMO will visit one of this upcoming seasons Carol Burnett CBS TV shows.
DEAN MARTIN takes more money out of the Matt Helm films than Columbia who produces them.
KATHY CROSBY is now trying to raise funds for the Immaculate Heart College.
Doctors again warn JOHN WAYNE to slow down. He wants to tag along with Bob Hope's Vietnam Christmas trip.
KATE SMITH's newest holiday album for the RCA people May God Be With You high in pre-release sales. Kate is stronger than ever.
FRANK SINATRA is still carrying his 2000 dollar portable telephone.
LOUIS ARMSTRONG has exhausted ten printings of his diet. He's lost a pound for each of his years.
LIBERACE gave some of his old clothes to the Salvation Army. Well they can always make lamp shades out of them.

HAPPY HOLIDAY.

Outside of 'Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer' only one other song of the Christmas season could compare in sales and that's Irving Berlin's 'WHITE CHRISTMAS'. Actually Mr. Berlin's melody is far ahead in sales but we must remember 'Rudolph' is still a baby, coming on the scene September 19, 1949.
'WHITE CHRISTMAS' in the beginning looked like a slow starter. The 1942 ballad was one of nearly a dozen songs celebrating various holidays worked up for a Paramount film entitled of course 'Holiday Inn'. When the dean of American song writers demonstrated it for BING CROSBY, the groaner said noncommittally; "This is one you don't

have to worry about, Irving." Berlin did worry though and it was a long hard battle by Bing and the studio to keep the song in the film. Berlin just thought it didn't have what it takes. "It's not really no."

Bing proved right, not only with regard to Berlin but himself as well. Of the more than 63 million records that 'WHITE CHRISTMAS' has sold to date Crosby has collected royalities on over one third, making it the biggest single title of his very extensive recording career. The sheet music sales are now over the six million mark. This means the Berlin as his own publisher, has netted over I,500,000 dollars from this source alone. He has collected over I,000,000 dollars as his take from the Paramount flick. "Variety" has designated 'WHITE CHRISTMAS" the most valuable song of all time. "The song is virtually a publishing company by itself", Irving Berlin was once quoted as saying.

What really started this remarkable Yule song on the paths to glory was the special meaning it held for the millions of men in the armed forces who were away from home and their loved ones during the Christmas seasons.

Berlin reminisenced further, "I'll never forget an experience in Hollandia, New Guinea, Christmas Eve I944. I had flown there to join the cast of "This is the Army". I heard some singing outside my tent. It took me a few moments to realise that what was being sung was 'WHITE CHRISTMAS' in a strange language. I thought someone was doing it as a gag, but when I went outside, there was a trio of natives...they were just singing a song they heard and picked up from the GIs.

Down through the years historians have tried to select the top popular songs of all time. Some songs on that list of lists are 'gang-songs' like HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW, and THE BEAR WENT OVER THE MOUNTAIN. Also present is AULD LANG SYNE. All these songs have been in public domain for many years and bring no income to their writers. It's funny to note HAPPY BIRTHDAY is regarded by many as a folk song, but it was actually written by a couple of New York schoolteachers, Billy and Patty Hill, and was protected until I949. A recent recording by Bing, WHAT'S MORE AMERICAN was also written by a high school teacher.

Figured in the all-time estimates also are Hoagy Carmichaels 'STARDUST' and the man of the blues W.C.Handy's 'ST. LOUIS BLUES.' Neither of these however, despite many new recordings and continuing performances, go through the annual revival or enjoy the holiday take of 'WHITE CHRISTMAS and 'RUDOLPH'.

As Christmas is the biggest holiday of all, its unquestionably true these two Christmas perennials must be considered the most valuable songs in the universe. And Mr. Crosby as well as Mr. Berlin have to be considered the most valuable talents.

ON THE SENTIMENTAL SIDE.

After reading everything written about Kathy Crosby you would half expect her to walk around with a primer, script, or cue cards in hand. With this image also you'd expect to find three children tugging at her apron strings dragging Nanny's nursing-kit. You might throw in...dictating a book at the same time.

Some of this will probably develop as Mrs. Crosby's interests are complexed with preparing Christmas for the family. "The children love the Yule season. They love to help me wrap presents and decorate the house.

Bing and Kathy enjoy doing for the children at Christmas, especially if they have been outstanding during the year. They may be rewarded well this year as Kathy states "Mary Frances has

skipped a grade. She is happy to tell you 'I am Mary Frances Crosby ....I have skipped a grade.' Nathaniel....he's adorable, he's amazing ....well all children are amazing, but Nathaniel will not tell a lie. Harry becomes more like his father every day. Everything is nice and easy for him."

Mrs. Crosby offered a Christmas quiz which is rather cute. As you read it, your fingers are no doubbt benumbed from wrapping presents in coloured paper and centering fancy glossy bows. If you put the trimmingsaside and plunge into the quiz, you'll probably score quite well. You won't know the object of it until the end, so grab a pen or pencil and start checking off!

YULETIDE QUIZ ?

(I) Do you each year complain about how much trouble Christmas is and then swear Christmas next year will be more spartan ?
YES NO

(2) Would you rather receive one considerably valuable gift than a number of smaller ones ?
YES NO

(3) Do you buy Christmas presents months ahead of time and keep them hidden ?
YES NO

(4) Would you consider it a special treat for the whole family to go out to a restaurant for Christmas dinner ?
YES NO

(5) Do you think it's unwise for a small child to believe in Santa ?
YES NO

'6) Do you send Christmas cards signed yourself rather than ones with your name imprinted ?
YES NO

(7) Contrary to popular belief the form 'XMAS' has a very sacred origin. But even so, does this spelling of CHRISTMAS seem a bit distasteful to you ?
YES NO

(8) If you have a cat or dog do you always see to it that it gets a wrapped present ?
YES NO

(9) Do you usually take a nap after Christmas dinner ?
YES NO

(IO) Do you generally leave your Christmas tree standing for at least a week ?
YES NO

Scoring.

Despite a few tricky questions, you may have already guessed the point of this quiz: How sentimental are you ? or on the SENTIMENTAL SIDE. read the answers to score yourself. If the total Three Points or less, you're a real Scrooge. Four to six points means that you're on the cynical side. Six to eight points means you are normally 'Hung-up' on Christmas, just as most of us are. Nine points

eans that you always watch A Christmas Carol on television and you eep a tear or two for Tiny Tim. Ten points....You really believe in anta Claus.

Answers

I) Count ONE for YES. The only people who complain that Christmas is much trouble are the sentimentalists who go to that much trouble.

2) Count ONE for NO. Each small present has a gesture value. Sentimentalists don't care that much about cash value.

3) Count ONE for YES. Unsentimental people are usually last minute shoppers.

4) Count ONE for NO. The sentimentalist treasures the traditional home dinner.

5) Count ONE for NO. Right or Wrong the sentimentalists feel that kids should be allowed their little fairytale worlds.

6) Count ONE for YES. Hand signed cards are more intimate, less pretentious.

7) Count ONE for YES. XMAS derives from the early Christian holy symbol 'X' for Christ. Nevertheless sentimentalists dislike XMAS because it seems to avoid the name Christ.

8) Count ONE for YES. Anyone who would forget 'Doggy or Kitty' at Christmas is no sentimentalist.

9) Count ONE for YES. People who take a nap after Christmas dinner are usually people who are in a state of happy collapse from working too hard Christmas Eve.

IO)Count ONE for YES....and a Merry Christmas to you and you and you!

BING CROSBY, will only emcee three Hollywood Palace shows next season. The reason is he has a flock of other spots to do including his new special deal with NBC. Other hosts on Palace will be Milton Berle, Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca, and my old pal Jimmy Durante. Each of these Bing Buddies, gets three spots.

STEVE MASON has signed a new long term contract with the Jimmy Yohan agency, New York City. He is to be spotted on the Dick Cavett, Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas (former Kay Kayser vocalist) Art Linkletter, and other shows of this nature, all prime time and all top rated. He is guaranteed re-run benefits also. A recording contract on both sides of the Atlantic looms high at this time. His two best selling albums The Crooner and Songs of Crosby and Columbo have together sold 8,000 to dat. And there is no end in sight. We have entered the sound of the 50s again.

VICTOR BORGE, Bing's old pal will open for two weeks in Toronto, Canada soon at O'Keefe Center.

DANNY KAY grossed 500 thousand dollars for two weeks in Montreal, Canada.

GUY LOMBARDO 's East Point House, Freeport, New York, featuring a package plan....only 29.90 dollars per couple, which includes dinner the South Pacific show at Jones Beach Theatre, and round trip boat ride.

DANNY THOMAS' daughter Terry to marry Larry Gordon on September 28th. Everybody join Dean Martin in a long drink...he just passed his 51st birthday.

POPPA SANTA CLAUS

With his children quieted for a moment Bing sat and this being the Yule season he started recalling not only how Kate (his mom) would reflect the Christ in Christmas but the part Santa. "When I was a child in Washington...you'd have to be good for weeks...otherwise there'd be no candy in the stocking. Santa that magical man would see everything. Things changed however, and as it turned out Santa has been good for me." With a twinkle in his eye Bing talked about a different Santa he'd come in contact with. "Hope played Santa once...and it was quite an experience for both of us."

"Hope sat in a gaily decorated sleigh decked out as Santa. It was some sort of Promotion gimmick. With some kids. Before long the hot lights had made him as well as myself hot and weary. Even the stickum in his moustache was coming loose. After a while you began repeating the same things to the same kids. Hope placed every kid that came to see him on his knee. Camera men were everywhere popping bulbs.

He asked one 2½ year old his name and what he wanted for Christmas. The child said don't you remember from before ? The boy had been through three times before. I thought everyone remembered Hope's bad jokes. Three brothers came up next and acted like the Wise Men. They wanted to know where Santa got the suit and was it hot in there. Hope said hotter than were Crosby's ancestors were. That had the parents in sections.

Most of the children screamed or become frozen to the floor at the sight of Santa. Must say I've felt that way on occasions. The true believers were between 3 and 8...and some in Hopes age group. The oneswho couldn't make the trip up to the knee. I can't forget one teen aged girl who stood in line and deadpan sat on Santa's knee asking for diamond rings, trips to visit absent boy friends ....then suddenly her face softened. Her father was in Vietnam and she asked for his safe return.

Hope cpuldn't promise that...but he promised to try and find him for her. Bob knows just about every guy over there and they know him...My bet is he found him.

oooooooooooooooooooooooOoooooooooooooooooooooo

STOP PRESS FROM FRED ROMARY.....

BUD ABBOTT of Abbott and Coostello, and his wife will celebrate their 50th anniversary next month. CONGRATULATIONS! That great comedy team brought millions of us a light-hearted moment back in the days when the world was a little less complicated.
MARTHA RAYE heads the guest list when ABC-TV's Operation entertainment begins it's new season Sept.27. The program taped at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, is hosted by PHIL HARRIS and includes performances by singer NANCY AMES and comic SLAPPY WHITE.
PETER DUCHIN at El Morocco: "Today you must play Rock-a-roll, and the horror of it is I'm beginning to like it."
JOHN WAYNE is weighing a 100,000 dollar offer to appear in two one-minute commercial for an auto company.
BENNY GOODMAN went backstage at "your Own Thing" and played clarinet.
KATHRYN CROSBY is off to Chicago for her "Sabrina Fair" engagement at the Mill Run Playhouse. BING, I soppose is off fishing or playing golf somewhere.
THE GLEN MILLER ORCHESTRA DIRECTED BY BUDDY DE FRANCO, moved into the Riverboat in the Empire State Building for three week stint.
GEORGE RAFTS date at Joe's Pier 52 was British actress CAROL LANG.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON . I.C.C REPORT : LEEDS/ENGLAND . NOVEMBER 1968..

Dear Friends,

As usual when it gets near to BING time, I've got involved in some work or other which seems to occupy far too much of my spare time. However, I have taken leave from my studies, which are necessitated, because of my new job as a work study officer, to do something pleasing and worthwhile; writing a little about that legendary figure Bing Crosby.

The last six months have seen some feverish activity on the Bing Crosby front, since we have had an I.C.C. Convention at Frank's, a third I.C.C. meeting at my home and some very notable new and re-issues from the record companies. Also for the first time I.C.C. has put out a Bing Crosby discography and Fred Romary has helped with that important "Films in Review" booklet wherein we get the lowdown on Bing's film career.

I must apologise retrospectively for being absent in the last issue of BING and for not reporting the I.C.C. convention as was my fullest intention. Since the meeting is now some months in the past, I will just recall some of the moments, so as to have a record of the occasion in BING magazine.

I.C.C. CONVENTION --- MAY 26th., 1968 --- NORTH SHIELDS

Frank had wisely changed the name of the occasion to convention and this seemed to go down well with the press. Don Woolland had asked members of the press to be there and Bing sent a 10 minute tape to set the scene for this first ever I.C.C. convention.

All the regular visitors were present and Frank brought along two of the youngest members in the shape of Eddie Purcell and his pal Robert Jones. A very notable first time appearance was put in by Eric Peacock of Liverpool who had travelled unaided to Franks carrying that ever familiar white stick. Eric confessed to me that he had a distinct liking for the whiteman sound and the very early Bing, some of which has turned up on Epic and the Columbia Whiteman LP.

Another visitor and overnight stayer with me was Charlie Tupper, who on his return to Surrey mailed me my first ever copies of Robins and Roses and Just one word of Consolation.

Frank took charge at the turntable and gave us some interesting selections of 78s, whilst we also heard on tape the voices of Joan-Paul from Canada, Don Denny from Spokane and Johnny Jones from Northern Ireland with letters of greeting from other distant collectors. It was a truly international, friendly gathering and the press gave us the following coverage:-

THE PILGRIMS GATHER TO HONOUR BING by MICHAEL GAY.
(Daily Mail Monday May 27th. 1968)

Charlie Tupper, a railway clerk from Epsom, travelled 300 miles yesterday just to listen to old gramophone records. He was one of about 40 people who made a special pilgrimage to a house in North Shields. Some were sporting blazers with their club badge. Others wore a special tie.

There were no screams, no wild scenes. They just sat in silent adulation as the voice of crooner Bing Crosby filled the room. The annual convention of the International Crosby Circle was in full session. The members - few will see 30 again - met in Frank Murphy's sitting-room in Lovaine Place, North Shields, Northumberland, where you can hardly see the wallpaper for photographs of "BING". They listened to a personal message specially recorded for the occasion by Crosby.

Eric Peacock, a blind man who had journeyed all the way from Liverpool, was there, so were Michael Crampton, a Leeds man, who at 24 is one of

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

the 'youngesters' in the organisation, and a party from Keighley, in Yorkshire.
As the familiar voice sang on and on and on, they silently examined the new badges for members' cars and the sheets of Crosby stamps - tiny photographs of Bing which have been designed to stick on envelopes in a bid to perpetuate the memory of the ageing singer. Although Bing has now passed into semi-retirement, and his voice is seldom heard on the Radio, he still has one of the most faithful followings of any artist.
Said Mr. Murphy, secretary of the Circle and editor of the quarterly magazine ""BING"" ; ""We have about 500 members all over the world. In fact, membership is increasing by about 30 or 40 people every year, and not all of them are old; some may be in their seventies, but others are still in their teens.
Mr. Murphy said: ""Though the radio stations are not playing many of his records, a lot of his films are being shown, some of them on television, so you see he's still gaining new fans." Up until two years ago, the Circle was known as the British Crosby Society, but because of applications for membership from abroad, it was decided to give it an international flavour.
Said Mr Murphy: "I think the reason for the increasing interest is the fact that people are now beginning to realise that Mr Crosby will soon be entering into full-time retirement, and we must hold on to what we have got."
Seventy percent of club members are men. "I think this is because most men believe they can sing just as well as Bing Crosby," said Mr Murphy.
Bing - undisputed king of the record industry with more than 250 million discs sold - has just released a new single called 'Where the Rainbow Ends'. ""We are hoping that it will do for Bing what 'Wonderful World' did for Louis Armstrong," adds Mr Murphy.

BING FANS MEET
(Weekly News, Friday May 31st, 1968)

Bing Crosby fans met in North Shields on Sunday for the first international convention of the Crosby Circle. Held at the home of Mr Frank Murphy, Secretary of the International Crosby Circle, the event was attended by about 30 fans from as far away as Surrey and Liverpool. Greetings and taped messages from members in Isreal, Australia and Poland also were heard.
To a background of old favourites and more recent recordings made by the ""Groaner", members had several hours in which to discuss their favourite singer. The most interesting aspect for them was listening to a ten minute taped message from Bing in which he described his latest activities and future plans. He referred to his visit to England in August when several members hope to meet him.
Mr Murphy commented: "We are all pleased with Bing's enthusiasm for the Circle. He always shows a great interest in what we do and I was able to show the fans some of the letters, souvenirs and photographs he has sent me."
Secretary since 1961, Mr Murphy has met Bing eight times!
The longest journey for the convention was made by Mr Charles Tupper of Epsom. He has been a member since 1954 and has collected 400 singles and 200 long playing records of the singer. "It was well worth the trip," he said. "It's not often we get the chance to spend time talking about our common interest."
Mr Michael Crampton, of Leeds, is 24 and has been a member of the Circle since he was 13. Now the British representative of the group, he explained: "There are about 500 members throughout the world and for us Bing is as great as he ever was."
Mr John Maughan, of Lauderdale avenue, High Farn, Wallsend, who is a barber in the town gave his reason for being a fan. "It's not just his unique

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

voice but also his personality."
In his shop, Mr Maughan has tape recordings of Bing's songs, which he plays for the'older customers'. "The younger ones are not interested," he added.
Teenagers were represented at the convention, however, by two new members - Robert Jones (18) of Falmouth Road, Chirton Grange, North Shields, and Edward Purcell (17) of Falmouth Drive, Jarrow.
They pointed out that although they liked modern popular music, they thoughtBing's style 'has something'.
The Circle meets three times a year.

STAMP OF GREATNESS FOR BING. (Sun, Monday May 27th 1968)

Bing crosby's name will appear next to the Queen's this week - on hundreds of envelopes.
The 500-member International Crosby Circle are putting the veteran singing star back in the limelight by issuing the Crosby stamp. Forty of the fans from all over Britain saw the stamp for the first time yesterday when they travelled to the Tyneside home of Mr Frank Murphy, 37, a cinema manager, of Lovaine Place, North Shields: "With our new stamps we hope to put him back before the public." Said Mr Murphy, who is the Secretary of the Circle.
They also spent hours listening to tapes of Bing's songs collected from all parts of the world . Charles Tupper, a 40-year-old railway clerk, travelled 300 miles from Epson to listen to Bing sing 'Camptown Races'
The Circle heard a 10-minute recorded message from Bing.

THE OLD GROANER
(The Journal , Monday May 27th, 1968.)

It seems television is becoming the only way of keeping the great stars from fading into obscurity. That, at least, is the picture Mr Frank Murphy painted when I spoke to him yesterday.
Mr Murphy is Secretary of the Crosby Circle, which held it's international convention in his North Shields home yesterday. He has only been able to show one of Bing's films at the Empire, Jarrow, since he took over there as manager more than a year ago. The only film of Bing we have shown is 'Robin and the Seven Hoods' - where he was a guest of Sinatra's," he confessed.
"Bing has been making films since the early 30s and altogether he has done more than 70. But the only way to get to see them is to stay glued to the television," Mr Murphy says. Mr Murphy, who is 37 and has been Secretary of the 500-member Crosby Circle since 1957, reckons Bing's reputation is safe whatever happens.
"Today's stars are not stars in the sense Bing was," he told me. "They're not made to last like him. There is nothing we can do for Bing's career now and he doesn't really need us, but it's nice to be able to think of ourselves as loyal fans."

Another article appeared in the Northern Echo, Monday May 27th 1968. headed DELEGATES TALK, MEET AND LISTEN - AND ALL FOR THE OLD GROANER, which was practically word for word the same as the earlier article printed BING'S FANS MELT.

Along with the press reports we managed a large picture spread in the WEEKLY NEWS which I believe resulted in a number of enquiries being sent to Frank.
Bing kept playing all the time and members interestedly bought the I.C.C. ties and wall plaques devised by Johnny Jones.
Alma provided beautifully, as always, and it is very important that I record our appreciation of the effort Frank and Alma put in to make the

occasion successful. And for their continuing effort in promoting and maintaining interest in the recorded word of Bing Crosby.
Thank you Alma, Frank and Bing for an enjoyable day.

3rd. I.C.C. MEETING AT LEEDS, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6th. 1968.

In another city, another month, but asimilar enthusiastic setting, I opened the 3rd. I.C.C. meeting at my home. The events went something like this:-

11 am. Sunday. - I was very fortunate to be invited to the Radio Leeds studio to make a recorded interview for airing on Monday 7th. Oct. at 0750 hours. I talked off the cuff to the interviewer about the Sunday I.C.C. meeting and was invited to speak about Bing's greatness and talk about why one so young appreciates Bings work. Although I had no time to work out anything important for the interview, it came over well on the Monday morning and thus we got a plug in for the I.C.C. and Bing!

I am sure your local radio station would be pleased to hear you talk about Bing and they might even play your favourite record as Radio Leeds does.

2 pm. - Reg Bristo and first timer Fred Reynolds arrived for lunch and were suitably attended to.

2.30 pm. approx. - several contingents arrived and the members attending were:-

Reg Bristo - Wales; Fred Reynolds - Birmingham; Fred Hoyle - Harrogate; Mrs S McNamara - Leeds; Kevin Lane - Leeds; Vic Gilmore, Frank Briggs and Alf Farrow - Hull; Cyril Duncombe, Frank Murphy, Ken Robinson, Bill Bell, Eddie Purcell, and Robert Jones - Newcastle; Arnold Pope - Manchester; George and Rene Smith and Jack Feather - Keighley; Fran and Irene Ashurst - Wigan.
Hoping to attend but unfortunately could not were Roy and Denise Clark of Yeadon also Tom and Elizabeth Smith of Lothersdale.

Immediately Frank arrived, we departed along with Reg Bristo and Fred Reynolds to make a flying visit to see Hon. Member Mick Drury. An all too short visit for all concerned as we had to return quickly to get the meeting under way proper. By now Members were seated comfortably and we kicked off with apologies from Les Phythian and Eddie Rice, with myself reflecting that I had joined the British Crosby Society some 11 years previously and all through this period I had had continued encouragement in matters Crosby from Frank.
Greetings were read by Fred Romary, who also mailed me 'Films in Review' for members to look at.
Ninian Faichney of Falkirk, Scotland, who, since he lived near mailed a small greetings tape and treated us to "Blue" on the bagpipes!! -- most amusing. Ninian also sent along a press picture of his Crosby Room, which I was able to see on my recent visit to his home. I was entertained along with my girl-friend by Ninian and his wife whilst passing through Falkirk on a recent holiday.
Johnny Jones sent his blessings and helped considerably to make the occasion a success by providing the Safeways Christmas LP on loan, and also sending across I.C.C. ties, plaques and pens. Johnny also mailed SPIRESIDE, spring 1968 issue, which is Gonzaga University's bulletin and features Bing returning to his Alma Mater. Also Johnny provided photographs of Bing for distribution, which had come from Larry Crosby.
From the Isle of Wight, Les Gaylor sent a letter and brought us up to date on the Bing LP release front. With news that Longines are about to release their second Treasury set containing 36 Bing tracks, 16 of which appeared on the first set.
From Kent Bob Roberts taped a small message and provided a few rare items

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

on tape for the request spot.
George O'Reilly, of television and radio production services. Dublin, sent a photograph and warm greetings and apologised for his non-attendance.
Keith Hyde, truly one of Bing's greatest admirers sent his usual informative and valid letter, with some current thoughts and information about Crosby-ana in general. Keith wished us a huge success and we had pal, just that!

Having read the greetings we listened to a side from the EPIC 2 album set, at the suggestion of Keith Hyde. There was some comment about the superb quality of reproduction. Columbia really do have a new process which in no way, distorts the sound of the original 78s.
From the LP we moved on to some 78s, talk and more talk and eventually to some excellant tea provided by mother, the ladies helping out as usual.

After tea we came to the highlight of the day with an hour long request tape by Hon Member Mick Drury of Halton.
This spot is always looked forward to by members and this time we managed to include everyone on the tape in one way or another. Mick and his girl-friend Joanne did the hard work of compiling the programme and I supplied the discs, whilst Bob Roberts came up with 3 very rare items.
Mick's efforts are truly worthwhile, since when you play the request programme over, say 12 months later, the talk and records come over just as fresh as the day we first played them. Our grateful thanks to Mick and Joanne!
After Mick's spot we played the latest Bing releases plus 78s, and wound up an all too short day with more tea, apple pie, buns and the Bing Crosby Story Vol.I. from the B.B.C. home services, some years back. All concerned strove to make the occasion a success and a success it was.
Thank you all, and I look forward to you being present next year.

FILMS IN REVIEW----JUNE - JULY - 1968.

In this booklet we have the first 24 pages devoted to a resume of Bing Crosby's stirling effort on the cinema screen, with some outstanding phoyo shorts by Fred Romary.
A few of the interesting points are;-

(1) Bing has played in 38 full length feature films, including such films as CHECK AND DOUBLE CHECK, RKO, 1930 - and REACHING FOR THE MOON, UNITED ARTISTS, 1931, which are films unknown to me and I'm sure many others!

(2) Bing has featured in 20 short films including, RAPSTICK THE TAILOR, never released and made by Pathe in 1930.

The Mack Sennet shorts were;-

(1) I SURRENDER DEAR 1931.
(2) ONE MORE CHANCE 1931.
(3) DREAM HOUSE 1932.
(4) BILLBOARD GIRL 1932.

The books give sound judgement on Bing's film career and you would be wise to get a copy if you can.

LONGINES SYMPHONETTE SOCIETY

BING CROSBY'S TREASURY - THE SONGS I LOVE, VOL.(I).

In the last issue of Bing, Les Gaylor suggested that we write to 90 Church Road, Hove, and obtain a copy of this desirable album containing 16 Bing numbers, at a cheap rate. I did this and obtained the album for £5/15/- which is most acceptable but! - I cannot help thinking that Longines are being a little unfair, if they include these same 16 songs on the new Treasury about to be released. My favourite incidentally is 'Chapel in the Moonlight'.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

THOROUGHLY MODERN BING - STEREO - P.I.P. 3802.

Right up to date now and Pickwick offer the following songs:-
Talk to the animals - Love is blue - Ding Don the witch is dead - chim chim cheree- I call you Sunshine - High Hopes - Thoroughly modern Millie - My friend, the doctor - Up up and away - Puff the magic dragon - Whats more American. Orchestration by Bugs Bower and sleeve notes by Fred Romary.
In a recent letter to me Reg Bristo felt that in this album, there is the inevitable battle between orchestra and singer, and with the exception of a couple of tracks I'm inclined to agree. Although this is light, fresh and definately modern Bing, with his usual skills coming across. This is only available from the states at present.

PAUL WHITEMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA FEATURING BING CROSBY

HALL OF FAME CL 2830.

This LP has a startling cover and the Whiteman tracks have had the same treatment by Columbia as the Epic set, with the same exceptional result. Again this set is only obtainable from the U.S.A.
40 years seperate this album from the previous one but Bing has something to offer at both ends of the time scale.
Coquette, recorded 2/28/29 is the outstanding track for me and showed promise of the great things to come from Bing!
The sides are as follows:-
Side I. Constantinople - Taint so honey taint so - get out and get under the moon - I'd rather cry over you - I'm on the crest of a wave - Thats my weakness now - Because my baby don't mean maybe now - Out-o-town-girl.
Side 2. I'm bringing a red red rose - Coquette - Reaching for someone - S'posin - At twilight - When youre counting the stars alone - I'm a dreamer aren't we all - A bundle of old love letters.
I'd be pleased to give anyone any further information, should they require it.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS - WORLD LIBRARY OF SACRED MUSIC

2145 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214.

Bing does not sing on this album, he only narrates the Christmas songs offered by the Bonaventure Choir - U.S.A. only!

BING CROSBY IN HOLLYWOOD - 1930 - 1934.

Available in Britain at a retail price of 58/-. My set is the American one and is exactly the same as the British! On the reverse side of the double album is a photo of Bing and Al Rinker in Los Angeles, Oct, 1926 and the cover notes say that this a photo of Bing and Al at their very first recording date for Columbia, quite a historical photo!
Now, I think will quarrel with the content of this double package and we have a good number of sides which have not been on LP before. This latter fact is what really makes any album desirable, even if there is only one track, not previously issued on microgroove.

CROSBYANA COLLECTORS LIBRARY, VOL. I.

The sleeve notes tell the story. Those of you who have collecting Bing Crosby records since the 1940s will know the Crosbyana Collectors Library of old. Throu it, in past years, you gained many rare Bing Crosby recordings.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

Now we are receiving it in a series of 7" 33 and a third albums, in which we hope to bring you more of the rarest Bing Crosby. The first volume contains the much sought after Chevron recordings of 'Thanks' and some of the best songs that Bing has sung on television in recent years. We hope you like.
The sons are:-

(I) THANS with PHIL CROSBY.
(2) MY CUP RUNNETH OVER.
(3) SUNRISE SUNSET.
(4) GIRL TALK.
(5) MY FATE IS IN YOUR HANDS.
(6) I LEFT MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO.
(7) CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN.

The last two are exceptional and SAN FRANCISCO is as good a Bing record as you will ever hear. Australia only! (Please write to me me if you are interested).

THE BING CROSBY STORY - VOL I - 1928 to 1932.

This , for me is the greatest issue of Bing on LP. There are no less than 26 sides which have not been on LP before and what more could a young collector wish for ? But there is more to it than that! Larry Carr has chosen these titles so as not to clash with the Whiteman or Hall of Fame issues and the reproduction will in my view, never be bettered for these old recordings.

The sleeve notes are informative and this is truly a collectors item and you must without hesitation, go out and buy this set when it reaches the stands later this year. In America the set has sold out within a few weeks! There are 32 titles in this album and if anyone wishes to know what they are, I'll be pleased to let them know on request. Finally in connection with VOL 2 of Epic I would ask you to write to MR LARRY CARR EPIC RECORDS 51, WEST 52 STREET, NEW YORK 10019, U.S.A. With suggestions for VOL 2. He would be grateful to hear from you and you might influence him into putting on record those favourites which have not seen daylight for many a day (I refer , of course, to the Masters).
THE SIDES MUST BE PRE-DECCA!
Some o my own suggestions are as follows:-

21st. Dec 1931 - I FOUND YOU.
15th. Mar 1932 - SHADOWS ON THE WINDOW.
15th. Mar 1932 - YOU'RE STILL IN MY HEART.
23rd. Apr 1932 - WALTZING IN A DREAM.
24th. Apr 1932 - LAZY.
24th. Apr 1932 - LET'S TRY AGAIN.

There are many more from 1932-33-34 before Bing went to Decca, and if we can get 32 of these on LP, I would gamble on the set being the most sought after one EVER!

So PLEASE write to LARRY CARR - NOW!!!

THE MINI-BING CROSBY I.C.C. DISCOGAPHY.

To say that you must have this discography is an understatement!
The 50 pages contain a complete listing of all Bing's commercially recorded songs, and the layout is simple, giving matrix, title and recording date only. There is and exceptionally good cover by Fred Romary and I hope that you will support Frank in this fine venture.

MICHAEL CRAMPTON continues.....

Which brings us to the end of another report for Bing.
Next time we meet Christmas and the New Year will have passed, so I extend my Christmas greetings to you all and yours and wish you a healthy and comfortable New Year.
We should have Epic Vol 2 and Longines 2 to talk about for the next issue so till then.....

ALLOA.....MICHAEL.

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ALF FARROW here...May I take this opportunity to thank Michael and his mother for making the meeting at their home a most memorable and exciting one, for me anyway! I enjoyed immensely every short minute of it and was very reluctant to leave! But all good things must come to end and as I think back I got a feeling of great satisfaction in knowing that at that meeting I heard some of the truly great Bing, was fortunate to hear the tape Bing did for the convention (ThanksFrank), heard some Bing that I know I will never possess, and above all, was delighted to meet such dedicated people as Reg Bristo and Fred Reynolds and all the other people present.
I was delighted also, to see that Bing had penetrated into the realms of of the teenagers in the presence of Eddie Purcell and Robert Jones who say and I quote "BING HAS SOMETING". - no comment!
Thank you again Michael's mum and Michael himself! - not forgetting Mick Drury!
I know you will all join with me in offering congratulations to Frank and Alma Murphy on the addition of a boy to their family. Very many congrats. to you both and I hope he grows up to be as nice as Michael, who did a great job directing me from Franks home through the Tyne tunnel to Jarrow where my wife and I were entertained to tea by Frank on the day we called in late August, on our way home to Hull from Scotland. I did not see that "ROOM" Frank but I will some other time I can assure you on that!
As Michael Crampton says in his column, by the next issue Christmas and the New Year will have gone by so I wish sincerely that all members of the I.C.C. and their families have a really great Christmas and a truly peaceful New Year . Included in this greeting of course, Bing and Kathryn Crosby and their brood and we are hoping to see you again in Britain in 1969, Bing. O.K?
All the best to you all and pleasant Bing listening!

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"TAILPIECES"
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"Bing sounds as grand as ever on TV and it looks as though he will go on for a few years yet. He still is a most talented singer even though his voice range is not as great as it was in the 30's and 40's - To me there will never be another singer like him".....
...Harry Fulmer, N.J. USA 13/9/1968.

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R.R. BOWKER CO, Publishers to the Book World since 1872 is the latest international organisation to request details of the ICC - it seems we are to be featured in no less a publication than ULRICH'S INTERNATIONAL PERIODICALS DIRECTORY.USA.

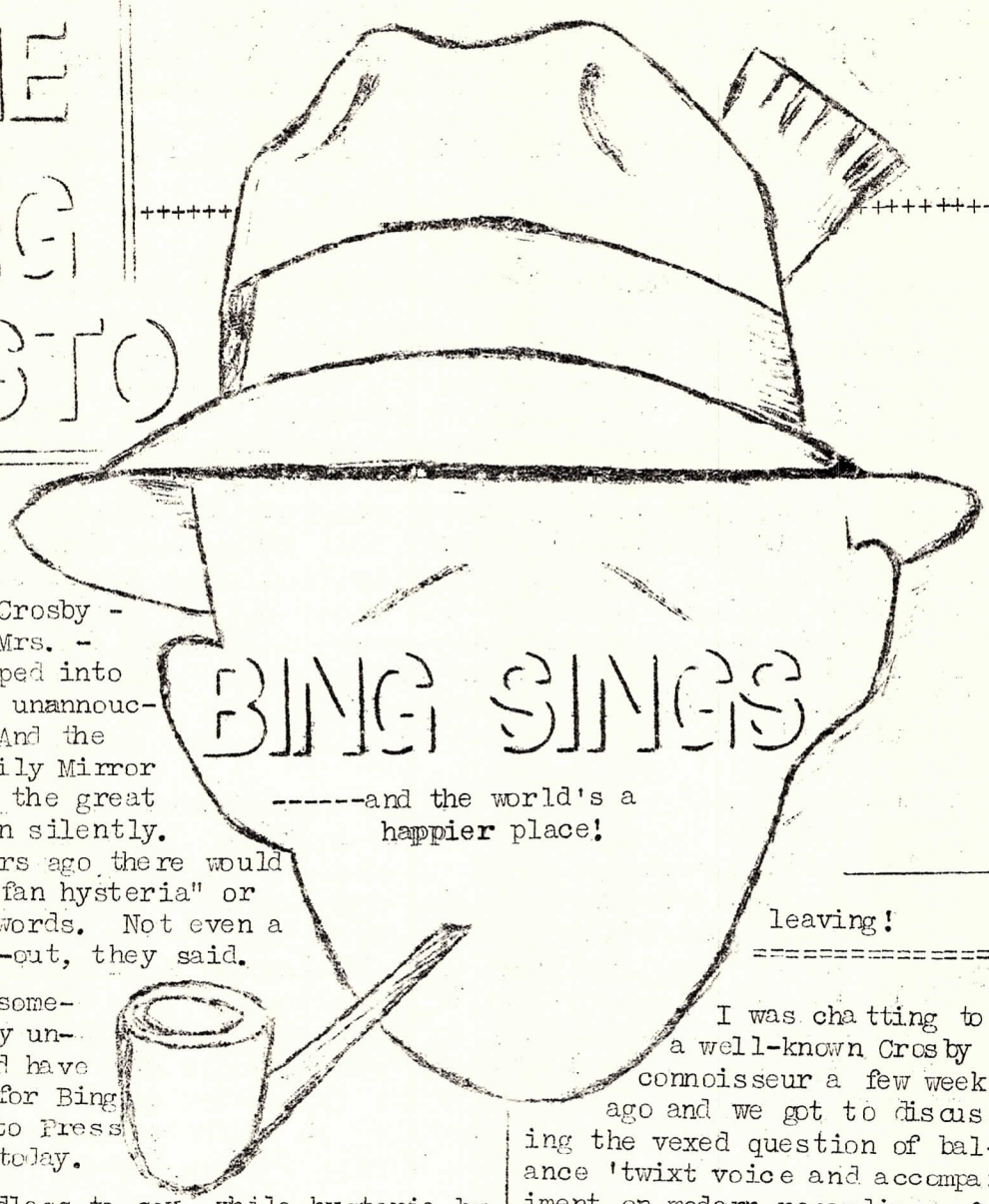
The ICC wishes to record it's appreciation to Scottish member NINIAN FAICHNEY for a great plug for Bing in the Falkirk Herald August 10 - Also to LESLIE GAYLOR for a most interesting piece in THE NEWS OF THE WORLD on October 6th.

MOVIE FILE

The RON BOSLEY-ALAN LURIE/ has been held over until the Feb 5 1969 issue of "BING" when we shall present a double feature of this special series together with THE BING CROSBY SONG BOOK

CHRISTMAS 1968 - DON'T FORGET REQUESTS FOR "DER BINGLE" ON THE INTERNATIONAL AIRWAYS - may we suggest WHITE CHRISTMAS-SILENT NIGHT-DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR-OH HOLY NIGHT-SILVER BELLS-THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY- TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.

THE REG BRISTO COLUMNS



BING SINGS

------and the world's a happier place!

So Mr. Crosby - and Mrs. - slipped into Town quite unannouced again. And the asinine Daily Mirror notes that the great man came in silently. "A few years ago there would have been fan hysteria" or some such words. Not even a press hand-out, they said.

+ I fancy something very unusual would have to happen for Bing to resort to Press hands-out today.

+ And, needless to say, while hysteria by modern standards would be strictly ruled out, if his visit had been more publicised there would have been no shortage of fans to greet Bing. Its easy to understand that, on private visits such as this, Bing wants the quiet life - and who will blame him after so many decades in the public glare.

+ Even so, the indefatigable Les Gaylor was right on the ball. Indeed, he very kindly kept me posted by mail of Bing's presence. Not only that, our local evening paper carried a picture, front-page, of Bing & Kathy at London Airport looking very elegant, too. But none of this I saw at the time - for the simple reason I was away from home. And the exasperating truth is I was staying just a few miles from the West End of London!' You could have knocked me down with a frail of 78 when I read of the visit - on the day Bing was leaving!

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I was chatting to a well-known Crosby connoisseur a few weeks ago and we got to discussing the vexed question of balance 'twixt voice and accompaniment on modern recordings. Our talk ranged over most artists, but as you would expect, with particular reference to Bing. On this occasion, I was afforded a first listen to the new Pickwick International album: "Thoroughly Modern Bing."

+ My host, who lives not a thousand miles from the centre of Birmingham, in answer to my excited request: "What is it like" ere he slipped it on the turntable, replied: "It's alright, I suppose, but to me it degenerates again into the inevitable struggle between the voice and the orchestra."

+ And alas, the next 30 minutes proved he was quite right.

+ Now, I'm not going name-dropping (Cont...

but the fact is that a few weeks before the encounter I'm discussing, I had the opportunity for a chat with a very famous ex-band-leader whose name was once a household name - still is among a hard-core of British dance music fans. This venerable and honourable gentleman still visits the recording studios from time to time and while he has endeavoured to "keep with it", he sadly confesses that he's left puzzled at today's recording methods.

"When I took the band into the studios," he reminisced to me, "the members of the band took their usual "restaurant places". A couple of microphones were strung over the band - indeed, I can remember when only one was used - and we played over a number for balancing purposes. It was I who went into the box to listen critically. My aim wasn't to bring out different sections of the band, to highlight any particular instrumentalist, merely to ascertain that the sound going on to wax was the complete sound one got from listening to the band 'in the flesh' from, say, a dozen yards in front of it.' Sometimes a slight re-position of the mikes was needed, but not often. And naturally, if say the number being recorded featured an outstanding trumpet solo, I arranged that he would leave his seat and move just a bit nearer the microphone as required.

"Now, however, you'd be amazed at the way it's done. Tape machines litter the control box and virtually tracks are being made of every section of the band, mixed, divided, cut, and goodness knows what else. But much more disconcerting is the presence of the Producer (sic), the mixers, and all sorts of 'technicians'. The leader feels he only gets into the box on courtesy grounds. Seems he is the last to be asked for an opinion on the sound to be recorded - or indeed, the sound wanted. Everybody, but everybody, knows better than he. I can well imagine that artists and bandleaders mustget some awful shocks when they hear 'their' records'. Don't misunderstand me. These chaps are clever. The only thing that worries me is that I'm not certain they do know what the listening public wants. Surely the man who conceives the sound from a musical angle, i.e. the arrangement and personnel at his disposal, would be the better judge. But no, it seems to be taken out of his hands by people who are convinced they are the only ones that know."

+ Well, that's the picture given to me, and naturally I can't guarantee that those conditions always apply today, and in every recording studio. But we do know that incredible electronic tricks and gimmicks are all part of the recording scene. This often results in a "sound" being produced on a record which cannot possibly be reproduced outside the studio, e.g. on the stage. Many, especially those "producing" records say: "So what?" Its a point of view, I suppose, that if the record catches the public ear. But inevitably when artists have made successful records there is a demand to see them. And then, unless they mime to their records, they come unstuck.

BACK TO THE POINT:

+ I've digressed again, I'm afraid, but I was led to it by thinking about this question of balance.

"Listen to the bulk of Bing's 78's,esppecially the first two decades - in parenthese, to how many singers can we apply that measure? - Bing's voice was always round and full, the band or whatever accompaniment there was, was always just about perfect. Nowadays whenever a new album comes out, unless it is a reissue of 78 tracks - there is always this controversy over balance. We hear 'Bing is drowned', 'Bing loses out to the accompaniment', 'The band was much too loud' and so on. And it is justified controversy, because the normal sounds are being juggled with. This didn't used to happen in the "good old days". No, although there is no doubt that technically recording since the 30's has progressed to a fantastic extent, mainly due to the advent of magnetic tape, the way it is being used is altogether another a kettle of fish. How often, in fact, do we hear the artists as they really sound?"

DUBBING OVER ACCOMPANIMENTS:

+ Another point made to me recently is whether dubbing vocals over a pre-recorded accompaniment is a worthwhile proposition. My correspondent this time cited Bing singing the album "Bing With A Beat" with Bob Scobey's 'Frisco Band. Here certainly was one occasion when Bing stood in with the band and the whole performance was simultaneously recorded. And his point was that it showed! I'm sure he has something, too. Artists, to give of their best, must be inspired. Its difficult to see how this inspiration can come from an isolated compartment listening to tapes, no matter how cleverly done. Personally, I would go further and say that recordings made with an audience present would result in finer performances. Artists are, to a greater or lesser extent, extroverts and react keenly to audience-appreciation.

+ One cannot help feeling, though, that a lot of this "big beat" and over-weighty accompani

ment is deliberate to hide the shortcomings of the "singer's voice" - or lack of it. This will never apply to Bing, of course - although he has been heard to remark that he asks them "to pump the orchestra up a bit these days"! However, to something lighter.....

MRS. CROSBY'S BOOK:

+ It was interesting to see that Mrs. C's book, on being published over here at last, has been afforded review-treatment not usually accorded such feminist literary efforts.
+ The News of the World gave it very lengthy treatment - and it wasn't the dubious distinction you may expect from such a source!
The Daily Sketch too gave it a quarter-page, with picture of Bing and Kathy, captioned: "Bing & Kathy: Happy ever after....for eleven years."

+ The Sketch started: "Beneath the coy gloss of 'Bing and Other Things' (Herbert Jenkins, 25s.) there's an interesting subject struggling to get out.' It went on to tell of the outraged female fans of Bing's at the wedding ...and that for an engagement ring..Bing gave her a saddle instead. "A man's man," Kathy confesses somewhat ruefully. But isn't that the story of Bing's life in short? A man's whose voice fluttered the ladies - and the men, especially the men! Because he sounds a man's man.

+ As an afterthought re Bing's visit: What couple other than Bing and Kathy, knowing that the wife's book was concurrently being published in London, would still have slipped in and out without a publicity hand-out, if only forthe book's welfare?

\+ + +

THE "LONERS" for those that plough a lonely furrow.....

+ I often wonder at those Crosby admirers who plough a lone furrow by not joining the I.C.C. or any other Crosby organisation. There must be thousands of them - otherwise, who bought those near-3-million records? Until a little more than 2 years ago I was a prime example!

+ I mention it again because I frequently get letters from Crosby fans who are not members. Now I'm always pleased to hear from a fellow-Crosbyite, member or no member, but in my reply I urge them to join: not only do you have the satisfying experience of being with kindred spirits, but you make real new friends, your collecting is stimulated - aye, and aided! You get all the news with particular reference to new records or reissues. This in itself is quite invaluable in these days when many record shops show a lamentable ignorance of the goods they sell - or could sell. I myself have been to all sorts of places I never dreamed I would visit. Indeed, on my way back from Leeds recently I remarked to my travelling companion that it seemed to me highly significant that all the Crosby people one meets turn out to be fine people in themselves. I'm certain there is an underlying reason for this.

Any way, there is no need for a "commercial" for the I.C.C. in these columns for it is tantamount to preaching to the converted. But I was led into it on account of the following letter I had recently from a non-member. I had replied to the first letter giving some information on records:

".....I hope you don't mind me taking the liberty of writing to you, but your name was given to me by a member of the I.C.C. I wish to thank you very much indeed for the trouble you took. As you yourself said, I am a stranger - but you still offered to get me the Ace of Hearts &c. on trust if I wanted them.....as a matter of fact, I phoned Decca a few weeks ago and they sent me a complete list of what was currently available of Bing's records. As a result, among others I got 'RARE STYLE'. Isn't it just marvellous? My only trouble is that I don't like playing my albums too much in case they wear out. I take them out of my cabinet, have a look at them, and decide to put them back! I suppose really it is funny. I end up by putting on some records, perhaps, of Jim Reeves or Harry Secombe, or maybe the Black & White Minstrels. I just love listening to Jim Reeves. It makes me realise what a rotten voice he's got compared with Bing. As I yold you, I have a number of Bing 78's and where these are duplicated on albums, I put on the old 78's so as to keep the L.P.'s nice and new. Of course, I have some favourites that are not on L.P. so these I must play: songs like Sierra Sue, When Mother Nature Sings Her Lullaby" and many more. My two favourite Bing songs are 'The Singing Hills' and "Swannee River".

'I am seriously thinking about joining the Crosby Circle....!

'Yes, I have the C.B.S. double album, which is excellent - with the exception of the first side of Record 1....Bing doesn't sing on these so I'm not a scrap interested. Thank you for telling me about the new 2-album set Epic due in November. I'll certainly be on the look-out for that....."

(Cont. over.

+ That is a fair excerpt from the letter from a lady in Wirral, Cheshire. Loth as I am to quote Hughie Green I feel bound to say that this lady certainly knows her Crosby - for a loner! If you had seen the list of 78's and 10" L.P.'s she was after you would be convinced beyond all doubt. I was tempted to cram a complete issue into one letter in reply - instead I urged the good lady to come and join us. And in case you are wondering about the age of this obviously sincere and dedicated Bing admiter she charmingly wrote: "You certainly have been a Bing fan for a long time. I thought I was doing well with 22 years - since I was 13!"

+ This letter, too, is an illustration of record companies failing completely to present their goods to the potential customer. Fancy not knowing of RARE STYLE! I naturally hope the good lady is with us by now - and reads again how much I - and now you, I hope - enjoyed her letter which came right out of the blue. But imagine taking out an album - AND NOT PLAYING IT IN CASE YOU WEAR IT OUT! That, dear friends, is a F A N!

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DISAPPEARING 78's? NO!

+ From letters received quite a few members are in despair about old 78 r.p.m. records - or the lack of them. "So many I want," wails one reader, "yet they seem to be disappearing completely."

+ Well, of course, new ones have virtually disappeared unless you come across a Rip Van Winkle record shop - and even they're about! But I'm sure the reader means "used" 78's! In the best condition possible, of course.

+ Do not despair, by any means for there are still scores of millions about. They are in attics, cupboards, garden sheds, all sorts of places. Sooner or later they come to light, usually on the decease of their once-proud owner. Its a melancholy thought. Then it all depends on what the young relatives do - realise they are of value to someone, or throw them in the dustbin, heinous thought. People, too, sometimes decide to dispose of a collection for various reasons. Perhaps they are emigrating and decide to tape their 78's for more convenient packing and transport.

+ Another excellent idea for people anxious to get hold of 78's is to let as many people as possible know! Work friends, pub. friends, relatives, even casual acquaintances. I've had several mint Columbia's brought into me at work by a kind lady.

+ And get known at the junk shops, or if you prefer it, second-hand shops, refugeee-aid shops, &c. I have three at which all Bing records are put aside for me to see first. If I have them all - which is usual - I give the old chap a couple of bob anyway and he puts the records on sale. But don't give up these shops even if months go by without any luck!

+ I nearly did on one of the shops on my "round" - but subsequent events have confirmed that belief of "don't give up". I was about to pass this shop without going in, convinced that that same dusty, uninteresting old pile of records without covers would still be there to depress me. "Ah, glad you came in," said the shopkeeper when I did decide not to miss it, just in case. "Something for you this time, I hope." He produced something I hadn't seen before. It was a thick album for 78's - holding half a dozen. A beautiful colour of purple, with in-laid silver-coloured printing: "BING CROSBY: BRUNSWICK PRESENTS SOME OF HIS FAMOUS SONGS."

+ I icked it up as if it was pure gold! In addition there were another dozen or so Crosby records, by exchanging the records in the album that I already had for some out of the dozen that I hadn't got, I came out of that shop with a rare piece of Crosbyana - rare to me, anyway. To make the "catch" even more worthwhile, one of the records was a Columbia, made in INDIA! Titles "Moonlight Cocktail/Anniversary Waltz". Quite obviously here was an example of some cherished Crosby collection being sold, presumably on the death of its previous owner.

+ And of course, the columns of this magazine are continually displaying long list of 78's.

+ Even so, despite the optimism I am trying to pass on to you, the truth is I am despairing of many 78's! Still, who knows....one day one of my "regulars" is going to surprise me again. It is a possibility - all the time you are short of a full collection!

+ A final thought: Bing has, of course, "sold" between 250 and 300 million records. Supposing an account had been kept - quite impossible, of course, but supposing - of all the times they had changed hands! Incalculable.

+++++++ BING CROSBY +++++++++ NO 2. in the Series.

No. 1, John Scott Trotter, appeared in the last issue.

++++++++++ ACCOMPANIED BY

VICTOR YOUNG

Readers will eventually have a complete record of all Bing's accompanists and their records by means of this series.

+ In all honesty it is doubtful if even the keenest of Crosby collectors can immediately and aurally distinguish and identify a John Scott Trotter accompaniment from one by Victor Young. Both of these eminent musical directors followed a similar pattern in directing their accompaniments for the great master, with perhaps a shade more accent on the strings in the case of Victor.

+ Victor Young, born 1900 in Chicago, was the violinist-leader son of a violinist-leader. Obviously his very musical career began at a very tender age in such circumstances.

+ Yet he had his lighter moments for I've only learned recently that he actually did a spell with the Ben Pollack Band around 1925 - the same time, incidentally, that Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller were also fledglings in the band. As you probably know, it was this band that later formed the nucleus of the very successful big Dixieland Band of brother Bob Crosby.

+ Victor Young is second only to John Scott Trotter in the number of times his name appeared on Bing's labels. His total amounts to 158 as compared with John Scott's 333. The association lasted almost exactly twenty years, beginning with "Were You Sincere?" in May, 1931 and ending with "Something Wonderful" in April, 1951. Thus it actually lasted longer in terms of years than John Scott Trotter's. But it will be appreciated, of course, that both these fine directors were working more or less concurrently with Bing's recordings.

+ As will be seen from their first record, Victor was very early on the scene in Bing's solo recording career for he was musical director to Decca Records as well as being prominent in Hollywood musical circles as arranger and conductor. It is extremely likely, also, that Victor directed some of those early "With Orchestral Accompaniment" records.

+ I doubt very much if Victor Young is his real name, for at the age of ten he was sent to Poland, described on at least one record sleeve, as the home of his grandfather. He returned to America after the 1914-18 War.

+ It wasn't long after that, of course, that his long career got under way. It is noted too, that Victor figures tremendously as a composer and is credited as being one of the first, if not the first, to compose scores for films - not necessarily musical films. His name is frequently seen nowadays on T.V. showings of Hollywood films. Quite obviously, recording with Bing in 1931 and post-1934, he too must have changed contracts and "caught up" with Bing in the process.

+ His efforts with Bing feature some remarkable and interesting records - as a browse through the list will show, and this I invite you to do at your leisure.

(Cont. over.....

BING CROSY: Accompanied by VICTOR YOUNG (Cont).

+ To begin with, he accompanied the "Face The Music" selection of March, 1932, copies of which are most rare, if not impossible to obtain. Repeated enquiries after this record brought the explanation, in one case, that Bing wasn't happy with it and all copies had been destroyed. Not all copies, of course, for some collectors do have it.

+ Obviously too, Victor Young was brought in to implement Jack Kapp's far-seeing ideas for spreading Bing over the musical scene by performing numbers that were not of the usual popular music category. For instance, it was in 1935 that the first versions of Adeste Fidelis and Silent Night were made, duplicated later under the baton of John Scott Trotter.

+ You will observe a parady or two in the list that was not issued to the general public. Here again, some ubiquitous collectors have managed to obtain copies!

+ It was Victor again when Bing coaxed Dixie Lee into A Fine Romance/The Way You Loo Tonight.

+ Other out-of-the-ordinary items were Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life, Thine Alone, the two earliest versions of Home On The Range - and showing a distinct change from the string idiom, Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean, which for me remains the finest duet.

+ Furthermore, it was Victor Young who presided at the four-part numbers that Bing recorded, no less than five of them:

Ballad for Americans.
The Happy Prince.
The Small One.
Man Without A Country.
Ichabod.

+ It was in 1946 that Victor Young used the famous violin virtuso Jascha Heifitz with Bing in the **lovely** Jocelyn Lullaby. Another famous violinst to perform with Bing under the same baton was Endice Shapiro in Beautiful Love. A' it was also under Victor's aergis that Bing recorded with a pukka Knight of the British Empire! A good quiz question? No, I suppose everyone instantly thought of Sir Cedric Hardwicke, with whom Bing appeared in the film "A Yank At The Court of King Arthur", with William Bendix, also on the record of "Busy Doing Nothing".

+ As with John Scott Trotter, the description on the labels varied. Sometimes being Orchestra directed by Victor Young; Victor Young and his Orchestra, and so on. On two occasions it wa s the Small Fryers.

+ As with Bing's other long-staying musical director, John Scott Trotter, truly the name of Victor Young is, and will be, always associated with that of Bing Crosby. His work played a big part in Bing's career - and it remains, in both senses, on record.

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AS STATED, THIS SERIES WILL BE CONTINUED UNTIL ALL BING'S ACCOMPANISTS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH. WITH THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT DEALT WITH WE CAN REVERT TO ALPHABETICAL SEQUENCE IN SUBSEQUENT ISSUES.

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"L I T T L E B O Y L O S T"

+ This largely non-musical film of Bing's was shown on Harlech (Welsh) I.T.V. on 15th October and, judging by comments next day, was very well received.

+ This of course was another of those films which made people sit up and say that Bing was indeed more than a song, dance and light comedian entertainer. I must confess again that, despite his screen triumphs, I still obtusely regard Bing as a singer more than a film star - absurd in view of his world-wide popularity as the latter. I enjoy his films because I can see him singing. "Birth of the Blues" for instance, is a good example. Nevertheless, "Little Boy Lost" was indeed an acting performance from the Maestro and it was good to see it again. We know that Bing was **really** under considerable stress when this film was made - and perhaps his remarkable show of sorrow was not entirely acting. The little boy certainly wrung the hearts of the ladies, too. What singing there was was good, too, and I like very much the line to the effect that the boy wasn't growing up, Bing was growing down to him.

+ Caught too Bing's guest appearance (at last) on the Dean Martin Show. Now, despite his efforts to sing like Bing, albeit somewhat wishy-washy at that, Dino is not my cup of tea - and no doubt a vitriolic critic would say he isn't Bing's, judging by Bing's expression! I was wondering just what was wrong when my wife, right out of the blue, said "Bing looks as if he would rather be anywhere than on that programme." Bing's diffidence was, as ever, in startling con-

trast to the blatant and irritating ego of his co-performers, Martin and the entrancing Lena Horne. But there are other entrancing ladies who do not so unsubtely (is there such a word - I'm too tired to check) proclaim the fact. And are considerably more endearing in the process. And, on reflection, I think my wife was right. She sometimes is.

\+ + +

+ In case you worry for my safety, the good spouse doesn't read this, so there. Come to think of it, the daughter does. Must have a word with her!

GREAT NEWS THAT PAUL MURPHY ARRIVED IN THIS WORLD ON OCTOBER 14th! CONGRATUIATIONS TO FRANK AND ALMA ON THIS VERY HAPPY EVENT.

+ IT IS, YOU MUST ADMIT, A COURAGEOUS AND FAR-SEEING CAMPAIGN ON THE PART OF THE EDITOR TO ENSURE THAT BING'S ADMIRERS ARE ENSURED FOR THE COMING GENERATION(S) !

AT RANDOM

+ With the MCA reissues of "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" and the two Christmas albums in the shops they are presenting a most refreshing change! There has been much justified comment, however, on the fact that MCA, after the mileage that has been obtained from all three of these fine albums, have reissued them at the full new-record price of 36s. 8d.

+ And of course, the new "The Bing Crosby Story" has been authoritatively forecast for November - so the shops will look even brighter. I enquired on the 1st and 2nd - today is the 3rd November - but it hasn't showed up yet.

+ Regular playing of the opus "How The West Was Won" hasn't shaken my conviction that this is one of the finest things Bing has done, irrespective of decade.

+ Bing likes Ireland - for obvious reasons. He likes England - and has gone on record as saying Paris is his favourite city. But the fact remains that Bing, rightly, loves his AMERICA. And "How The West Was Won" was plainly a project close to his heart. This comes through quite clearly, I feel.

+ And, in passing, the narration shows what a master dialectician Bing is in all roles: cowboy, gold prospector, historical commentator, and so on. That rich, sympathetic voice is a joy even in speaking.

+ In case the next column gets me in bad with the Temperance Union might I plead that I drink considerably less than would fail me the Breathalyser - and I did before that came into existence!

+ The first evening I wore my blazer with B.C.C. badge, and sported the Circle tie proved quite interesting! Not startling - but interesting.

+ As I stood at the bar immediately on entering the pub, I was conscious that a lady nudged her husband's arm - and indicated the badge. Just then I was caught up in conversation with a friend but I was aware that the couple were still discussing the bad with obvious interest. But they didn't offer any comment....

+ Yet within a couple of minutes of sitting at a table a stranger to me came across: "Excuse me, may I have a closer look at your badge?" he said. Naturally, I was only too happy to oblige.

+ "Is that a club for ol' Bing?" he said, after his scrutiny. When I replied that it certainly was he was tickled pink. "Well, fancy that, after all these years.....old Bing. Greatest of 'em all. Well I never.....Used to buy all his records. What memories!" When I gently suggested that he could still buy his records he seemed somewhat startled. "It's all long-haired kids today, surely?" Well, of course, I put him in the picture.....

+ And that happened half-a-dozen times during the course of the evening - and has happened many times since.

+ While it was a happy experience it put me in rather a dilemma! I desperately wanted to ask them "Do you still have the records, especially if they're Columbia's?".....but I couldn't bring myself to suggest that they might not still want their Bing Crosby records!

+ So, in their way, these satorial items are quite a propaganda item. One lady assured me that her nephew in Scotland was so Bing mad that they still called him "Bing"! Its not Ninian by any chance, is it?

BING CROSBY'S RECORDS WITH VICTOR YOUNG

1. Were You Sincere? 4.5.31.
2. Just Once More Chance. "
3. Now That You're Gone. 6.10.31.
4. A Faded Summer Love. "
5. Too Late. 8.10.31
6. Goodnight Sweetheart. "
7. Gems From Ge. White's Scandals 25.10.31
   (The Thrill Is Gone.
   (Life Is Just a Bowl of Cherries).
8. "Face The Music" Medley. 8. 3.32
9. Shadows On The Window. "
10. Red Sails In the Sunset. 12.11.35
11. Take Me Back To My Boots & Saddle. "
12. On Treasure Island. "
13. Adeste Fidelis (O Come All Ye Faithful) "
14. Silent Night, Holy Night. "
15. We'll Rest At The End of the Trail) 24.3.36.
16. Twilight On The Trail. "
17. The Touch of Your Lips. "
18. Lowely Lady. "
19. Corinne Corina (A Parody - Not Issued). "
20. Would You? 29.3.36
21. Robins & Roses. "
22. I've Got Plenty of Nuttin' "
23. It Ain't Necessarily So. "
24. Robins & Roses (A Parody - Not issued) "
25. Empty Saddles. (With Guardsmen Quartet) 14.7.36
26. Round-Up Lullaby. "
27. I Have So Little To Give (For Love Alone). 10.8.36
28. I Never Realised. "
29. Beyond Compare. "
30. The Way You Look Tonight. (Both
31. A Fine Romance. with Dixie Lee) 19.8.36
32. Me & The Moon. "
33. The One Rose. 5.3.37
34. Sweet Is The Word For You. "
35. Moonlight & Shadows. "
36. Sentimental & Melancholy. 8.3.37
37. My Little Buckaroo. "
38. What Is Love? "
39. Alexander's Ragtime Band (With Connee Boswell) 26.1.38
40. Home on the Range. "

(Cont. over....

41. Small Fry (With Johnny Mercer) 1.7.38
42. Mr. Gallahger & Mr. Shean " "
43. When You're Away. 2.12.38
44. Ah! Sweet Mystery Of Life. "
45. Sweethearts. "
46. Thine Alone. "
47. Gypsy Love Song. (With Frances Langord -
48. I'm Falling In Love With Someone. " 9.12.38
49. Maybe. 13.6.39
50. Somebody Loves Me. "
51. Home on the Range. "
52. Mister Meadowlark (With J.Mercer) 15.4.40
53. On Behalf of the Visiting Firemen. " "
54. Ballad For Americans Part 1. 6.7.40
55. " " " " 2. (With the
56. " " " " 3. Ken Darby
57. " " " " 4. Singers).
58. Do You Ever Think of Me? 23.7.40
    (With the Merry Macs).
59. You Made Me Love You (Merry Macs) "
60. De Camptown Races. 9.12.40
61. Did Your Mother Come From Ireland? "
62. My Old Kentucky Home. "
63. Where The River Shannon Flows. "
    (Above 4 titles with the King's Ken)
64. Chapel In The Valley. 30.12.40
65. I Only Want A Buddy, Not a Sweetheart. "
66. When Day Is Done. "
67. My Buddy. "
68. You Are My Sunshine. 8.7.41.
69. Ridin' Down The Canyon. "
70. You're The Moment of a Lifetime - (Flores Negras) "
    (Sung in Spanish & English)
71. Let Me Love You Tonight (No Te Importe Saber(In Spanish) "
72. Ol' Man River. 14.7.41
73. Day Dreaming. "
74. Darling Je Vous Aime Beaucoup. "
75. The Anniversary Waltz. "
76. Nobody's Darlin' But Mine. 26.1.42
77. When The White Azaleas Start Blooming. "
78. The Lamplighter's Serenade. "
79. Blue Shadows & White Gardenias. "
80. Just A Prayer Away (With Ethel Smith Organ, and Ken Darby Singers) 27.7.44.

BING'S RECORDS WITH VICTOR YOUNG (Cont.)

81. My Mother's Waltz. (With Ethel Smith Organ, and Ken Darby Singers). 24.7.44
82. Beautiful Love. (Violin Solo, Endice Shapiro) " "
83. Dear Friend. (Ken Darby Singers) " "
84. Home Sweet Home. (Rejected.) 25.4.45
85. Ave Maria. " "
86. Home Sweet Home (With Choir) 30.7.45
87. Ave Maria. " "
88. The Happy Prince Part 1. (Orson Welles) " "
89. " " " " 2. " "
90. " " " " 3. " "
91. " " " " 4. " "
92. Symphony. 21.8.45
93. Lullaby (Jocelyn) With Jascha Heifitz Vn. 14.9.45
94. Where My Caravan Has Rested. " 13.7.46
95. When You Made Love To Me. " "
96. So Much In Love. 9.8.46 "
97. The Star-Spangled Banner (Poem) " "
98. Old Ironsides. 15.8.46 "
99. I Kiss Your Hand, Madame. " "
100. The Kiss In Your Eyes. 17.1.47 "
101. Friendly Mountains. (With Chorus) " "
102. Emperor Waltz. 17.3.47 "
103. I Still Suits Me. (With Lee Wiley) " "
104. The Small One. Part 1. Supp. Cast. " "
105. " " " " 2 " "
106. " " " " 3 " "
107. " " " " 4 " "
108. Happy Birthday-Auld Lang Syne.) 20.3.47 "
109. Anniversary Song. Both with) " "
Ken Darby Singers.
110. Happy Birthday-Auld Lang Syne (Unissued). " "
111. O Fir Tree Dark (With Ken Darby Singers.) " "
112. The Man Without A Country. Part 1 28.3.47 "
113. " " " " 2 " "
114. " " " " 3 16.6.47 "
115. " " " " 4 " "
(With Frank Lovejoy & supporting cast).
116. My Girl's An Irish Girl. 13.11.47 "
117. But Beautiful. (Trumpet Solo: Manny Klein.) " "
118. Experience. (With Nan Wynn) " "
119. Galway Bay. 27.11.47 "
120. Laroo, Laroo, Lili Bolero. 11.12.47 "
121. Blue Shadows On the Trail. " "
122. The Story of Sorrento. " "
(Above 3 with Ken Darby Choir).
123. Once & For Always (With Rhonda Fleming). 18.12.47
124. Once & For Always (With Ken Darby Choir) 27.12.47
125. Busy Doing Nothing (With Sir Cedric Hardwicke & Wm. Bendix). "
126. If You Stub Your Toe On the Moon. 30.12.47
127. Lili Marlene. "
128. A Bluebird Singing in My Heart. 31.12.47
129. Sure Thing. (Jeff. Alexander Chor) 10.5.49
130. You're In Love With Someone. " "
131. Sunshine Cake (With Carol Richards) " "
132. You're Wonderful. " "
133. The Meadows of Heaven (With Ken Lane Singers). 11.5.49
134. The Last Mile Home. " " "
135. The First Nowell. " " "
136. You're All I Want For Christmas. " "
137. Some Place On Anywhere Road (Jeff Alexander Chorus). 21.6.49
138. Top O'The Morning. " "
139. The Donovans. " "
140. The Horse Told Me. " "
141. Ichabod, Part 1.) With Supp- 23.6.49
142 " " 2.) orting Cast " "
143. " " 3.) & Chorus. " "
144. " " 4.) " "
145. Eileen. 6.11.49
146. How Can You Buy Killarney? " "
147. And You'll Be Home. (With Ken Lane Singers) 21.6.50
148. Once More thr Blue & White. (With Ken Lane Singers). " "
149. Accidents Will Happen. " "
150. Wouldn't It Be Funny. " "
151. The Teddy Bears' Picnic. (With Judd Conlon's Rhythmaires) 22.6.50
152. The Friendly Islands. (With Jeff Alexander's Chorus). 23.6.50.
153. All My Love. " "
154. Early American. " "
155. I Whistle A Happy Tune. 9.4.51.
156. Hello Young Lovers. " "
157. Getting To Know You. " "
158. Something Wonderful. " "

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Million Sellers with Victor Young:

1. Galway Bay.
2. Silent Night, Holy Night.
3. Adeste Fidelis.

+ In BING some months ago I erroneously gave Victor Young as the director on "Toora-Loora-Loora" when in fact it was John Scott. Rather discouraging that no-one noticed - no?

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It is freely, indeed gratefully, acknowledged that the data in the above listing was taken from the four parts of THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY. I am always grateful to the eminent team of compilers which produced this work.

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Y'ALL COME!

Y'ALL COME!

WAS THE INVITATION

and though Y'All didn't come, luckily perhaps, around 25 did!

+ The third annual party/meeting was held on Sunday, 6th October, 1968, at the Leeds home of young Michael Crampton, and it is fairly safe to say that this has now become an annual event to be looked forward to. This time the "do" was brought forward a month and Mike's foresight resulted in everybody travelling to Leeds on a fine sunny day and not needing the radar "count-down" (thanks Mick Drury!) that had been necessary the previous November.

+ Chez Crampton had been tastefully prepared and the Crosbyana on view was a joy to every admirers heart - records, books, cuttings, ties, plaques, and other miscellaneous items. Happiest of all, Michael had to excuse himself for a short while - to go and record an interview for Radio Leeds - which may in fact have already been broadcast on the rational networks.

+ Who was there? Well, let me see now - George & Rene Smith from Keighley, Jack Feather, ditto, Vic Gilmore, Frank Briggs, from Hull, Fred Reynolds (a much appreciated first appearance here) from Birmingham, which did something to redress the disappointment at the enforced absence of that other "leader" - Les Phythian. Then there was Frank & Irene Ashurst from Wigan, Arnold Pope from Manchester (who provided a most interesting diversion of which more later), Frank Murphy turned up with a sizeable crowd from the Newcastle area including three or four youngsters! How Frank dragooned these is his business - but it was noticeable they were very well-behaved - and listened to Bing with commendable attention. There was Mrs. M. McNamara and her brother, Mr. Kevin Lane - two very welcome newcomers - old friends Billy Bell and Cyril Duncombe in Frank's party, and Oh yes - Alf Farrow making up the Hull trio. I suppose I've left someone out, but I did my best to remember! There was, as might be expected, strong representation from the midland-Northern counties while on this occasion London was conspicuous by its absence! What happened to friend Jack Dobson, I wonder?

+ All arrived in excellentime, enabling some of us to make our looked-fordward-to visit to "Mick" Drury before proceedings proper began.

MESSAGES FROM AFAR:

+ Michael started the proceedings off with the only possible item: "Where The Blue of The Night" (already thoughtfully provided on the turntable) and then read out messages from people too far away to be present. Leslie Gaylor sent good will from the Isle of Wight, and some well-received record news. Keith Hyde from Australia sent a "few brief lines" which ran to about four large sheets! Typically Keith - and received with real delight. We had all been reading the very excellent newspaper article on Ninian Faichney from O'er the Border in Falkirk and were highly amused too with his message, whimsically combining many of the titles of Crosby records in a very original greeting. I anticipate that Ed. Frank has reproduced the wonderful newspaper write-up on Ninian's career as a Bing admirer for it was very well done indeed. Did it bring you any mail, Ninian? From Chatham came greetings on behalf of Bob & Vera Roberts. Les Phythian wrote excusing his absence and conveying his usual goodwill, and may I add the cryptic and personal message; I'm still awaiting, Les! Fred Romary represented the States in his happy message. Its great to get these messages which really contribute to the atmosphere of a Crosby gathering.

"Y'ALL COME" Cont.

+ You may remember that "request time" at Michael Crampton's meetings are an especial feature. All the intending guests are invited to submit a request for a Bing record. Mike passes them to "Mick" Drury who strings them together with an eminently suitable script. This really is an excellent idea, for it is a means of making everyone at the meeting feel they participate in the "show". And in addition, of course, we get a string of Bing's best records, not to mention Mick's highly individual remarks! "As traditional as Yorkshire pudding," he said. "I don't know about the pudding - but your ears are going to get a battering!" Gertcha!

+ Some of the requests? Streets of Laredo, Changing Partners, Can I Forget You? - and The House is Haunted, and thereby hangs a tale, as they say! I fancy some of the requests were submitted by the guests with a glint of mischief in their eye - testing the full resources, as it were. This song, The House is Haunted. It made Fred Reynolds sit up! Fred is not easily surprised at Crosbyana - on his own confession in fact, one can get a little jaded. He means, of course, when you have a full collection and long for something new. But this song - FRED HASN'T GOT IT! Few people have, I imagine. I know I hadn't heard Bing sing it, although I did recall the song very well.

"The house is haunted, by the echo of
your last goodbye...."

I've since been told that Denny Dennis did it with Roy Fox's Band. Certainly it was a popular tune in the early 30's. But no commercial issue of it by Bing. This came from the archives of Bob Roberts, and by the sound of it, from an early short film. The request came from Keighley's George Smith, and as a point of interest, I made a second journey to Yorkshire less than a fortnight after Michael's "do" to attend a Fab. 1930's Ball - and again met George and Rene. What a night that was. And George told me, when I taxed him with his mischievous request, that that song wasn't really the one he had meant! So the plot thickens considerably. But the main point remains: Fred Reynolds was visibly intrigued! I can imagine that correspondence has waxed furious between Birmingham and Chatham on the subject. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that Bing - the young Bing - sang this song beautifully. Another knowing guest asked for "I Found You" - and again Bob Robert's resources were called up for duty.

+ I once made the suggestion that perhaps some of the "upper bracket" Crosbyites of the Circle might prepare some "pilot" Bing programmes for submission to the B.B.C. Listening to the "request spot" at Leeds I realised that should we ever get to the stage of needing a compere, Mick Drury is tailor-made for the part - if he would do it! His approach is entirely professional and script-writing is obviously another of his accomplishments.

ANOTHER DIVERSION:

+ Many of our readers have not been initiated into the "take" business so for them I'll just briefly say that often Bing had two or more shots at a recording at the same session. Most times, such is Bing's amazing recording ability, he would alter words and phrasing here and there. Only one take was usually issued - but where two or more have been issued the No. 1 collectors place as much store in getting all available takes as they do all available titles. Their view, quite rightly, is that it constitutes an entirely different recording. Which it does really, although perhaps the majority of members, especially younger ones, are content merely to have the song, irrespective of the take. Sometimes it must be conceded, the difference in "takes" is as infinitesimal as Bing singing "the" in one take, and "thee" in another. On the other hand the difference in takes can be very marked, especially in Bing's "scat" or "whistling" passages. All clear?

+ Well, Arnold Pope of Manchester turned up at the meeting with two 78's, each of "Memories". The diligently compiled Road to Bing Crosby discog. gives one take for this song. Arnold was convinced that he had a second take - and invited the assembled members to judge. A unique opportunity to indulge in the "take" business. Arnold has indeed a second take and thus makes a niche in research history! The difference in Bing's pronunciation of the word "among" and his whistling solo was quite apparent to one and all. The exercise was highly diverting. A final word on "takes". Some of them are so microscopically different that it is even necessary to play the two records simultaneously to spot the difference! I remember last year Mike Crampton and I played two "White Christmasses" alternately a dozen times and still couldn't tell one from t'other - AND WE KNEW THEY WERE DIFFERENT SOMEWHERE.

"Y'ALL COME" Cont.

+ Young Mike provided other bonuses for his assembled guests. He had recently received from the States the "Thoroughly Modern Bing" and Epic's "The Bing Crosby Story Vol. 1" two-album set and we were thus afforded a pre-listen to these most interesting albums. He also had the single "At The End of The Rainbow", which was recorded at the same time as "Thoroughly Modern" but NOT included on that album. It has been issued in America as a single but not, so far, here. Which is a tremendous pity, for with "Love Is Blue", it is perhaps the best track.

+ Frank Murphy delivered a few words as "boss" and conducted various raffles &c. the proceeds of which, very rightly, were handed to Mrs. Crampton as a small token of esteem - and gratitude, for allowing us to take over the house for the day. Most of us came away with an I.C.C. tie, as well.

+ Mrs. Crampton was, as always, assisted in the "refreshment bar" by Rene Smith and Irene Ashworth - this too a much appreciated service.

+ Michael renders the I.C.C. a tremendous service in organising these meetings, and is to be congratulated on his heart-warming devotion to Bing and his admirers. The time passes too quickly, of course, and the meeting between members who live so far apart is, perhaps, fleeting. But it IS a meeting. Contact is made, and everyone feels the better for it.

+ From Birmingham on to Leeds, I travelled with Fred Reynolds so we were ableto carry on the meeting as a duo on the way back. So earnest was this that we were almost in Nottingham before Fred realised we were on the wrong road! I still cannot understand how it took us so long to throw off the "Nottingham" and "Mansfield" road signs! Yet it made little difference, for we were back in Birmingham in Cinderella style, dead on midnight. Pretty nigh exhausted we still managed to play records until 2 a.m.!

+ A very happy day indeed, and again our thanks.

+ It is my firm belief that a move to Yorkshire would suit me very well! So far, it is Bing and The Golden Years that have been the only reasons for my visiting the Broad Acres. Small wonder, then, that I love the place - and the people I've so far met in it.

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QUOTES "QUOTED" IN "BING CROSBY AND THE CROSBY STYLE" BY :

—DR. MIZE—

"Crosby is the greatest thing that ever happened in American popular music. Countless millions have heard his voice beamed by radio to all parts of the world. Motion pictures in which he appears have penetrated into the most remote places on the globe. His phonograph record sales have exceeded those of any other individual. People who have never seen him feel he is their intimate friend. Few entertainers in history have succeeded in gaining and holding the affection of the public the way Crosby has. By just being himself, the kid from Spokane, with a song in his heart, has built up a musical empire in which he reigns as king".

Who said this - and when?

+ It may have been sadd yesterday. Actually, it was written in 1946 by Paul Vandervoort in the "Bandleaders Magazine".

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Dr. Mize himself wrote: "In the ear department, it is only Bing's outer fans that have bothered him. One of the first things that becomes obvious to the musician-listener is that Crosby's ear is unusually keen, with the result that his intonation is impeccable. This unerring pitch concept and its reproduction, permeates and is integrated with all the other desirable qualities possessed by him. Further, his feeling for, and liking of, jazz, combining with his highly sensitive ear, allows him to enrichen his offerings by using microtones (intervals smaller than the half-stops or semi-tones - an intrinsic feature of jazz) including especially "neutral thirds", the American decuple (ten tone) scale and the various emotionally-motivated intervallic departures from the stiff-tempered pitches. He is unerringly on pitch and his acute ear allows him to integrate these smaller intervals and colourful melodic devices at random and discretion. Jazz gave Bing an"emotional awareness" which Charles Henderson translates as a "zest for life" - an ability to feel what you sing. Too, these "jazz intervals" are totally compatible with the effective lilt in his singing which results from his slightly and subtly syncopative manner of phrasing; his suspension and anticipation of the rhythmic flow. He is never ponderous or pedestrian."

DISCROSBY

ABOUT RECORDS OLD AND NEW

Bing Crosby Sings Ray Noble!" What a wondrous prospect - but I have to disillusion you if its conjured up visions of a wonderful new album. Its just one of my favourite thoughts. Bing did indeed sing Ray Noble and sing Ray Noble as no-one else ever did. Just consider: "The Very Thought of You"; "The Touch Of Your Lips", "Goodnight Sweetheart"; AND "I Found You". But that's about as far as it goes, alas. Indeed, very few people have this last title, commonly agreed to be a great record indeed. Why it has never been issued here will never be understood.

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Ray Noble, who was of course, British went to America around 1935 with a ready-made eputation! This was because during a bandleaders' strike in America in the early 30's, merican record companies were desperate to get dance band records on the market any way hey could. By arrangement with E.M.I. the choice fell upon records made by the New May air Dance Orchestra. This was the E.M.I. or The Gramophone Company as it was then, house" orchestra and was directed by Ray Noble. This waw never, in fact, Ray Noble's and for it was composed of instrumentalists from several leading British bands. But its allmark was the very fine arranging of Ray. This allied to the great musicians under his ommand earned him well-deserved respect in America - so he went. As most readers will now, despite early union troubles, he finally got his "ticket" and consolidated his reputtion in the States. He became famous as a "British" pukka-chap in the Edgar Bergen - harlie McCarthy Show and also appeared in several Hollywood films as the same character. lenn Miller, incidentally, was in Ray's first American band - Ray wasn't allowed to take is British instrumentalists of course. The "Glenn Miller" sound is authentically stated o have happened by accident in the following circumstances: a rehearsal was due to start n which the trumpet took the lead over the sax. accompaniment, but the trumpeter hadn't rrived so someone (either Ray or Glenn) decided to press on, using clarinet instead of he trumpet lead, purely as a makeshift arrangement. But it sounded great - and still oes.

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Everything Ray Noble wrote was true quality, witness the four songs mentioned. He also rote the swing number "Cherokee" and probably many others. But there seems not to be nough to make a "ballad" album - just an E.P. as it were.

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The modern viewpoint: I was playing "The One Rose" a few days ago and asked my daughter she considered that any singer other than Bing could render the second chorus just the y he did? She agreed that Bing interpreted it in incredible fashion - but added: "Isn't a drippy song, though." Ah, romance! The first chorus is immaculate Bing, too!

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"DISCROSBY" (Cont.)

+ Do you find some record couplings intriguing? I do, particularly "Accidents Will Happen" / "And You'll Be Home". Is it, I wonder, the train of thought of an erring wife momentarily thinking of her absent husband while entertaining her illicit lover? Another, more provocative: "Ah! Sweet Mystery of Life" / "Sweethearts".

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+ I didn't really finish about Ray Noble's songs, particularly "The Touch of Your Lips". I have at least four versions of this fine ballad in addition to Bing's. Its a song most vocalists put over pretty well - but as you would expect, Bing's completely overshadows them all. For a start, he is the only one who sings the really fine verse of this song:

> "When troubles get me, cares beset me, and won't set me free....
> I turn to you for consolation.....I turn to you - As I shall always do;....."

+ How I recall prizing this record in the 30's, fully confident that it was Bing's finest record. Now, 30 years later, I'm not at all sure that it isn't. Does anyone agree? The way Bing produced "on mine", both words on the same note is most impressive - and typically Bing. This is, of course, at the end of the first chorus. Accompaniment by the way is Victor Young and his orchestra, and it was recorded on 26th March, 1936. A very good year for songs, by the way.

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+ Another correspondent recently desperately wanted information on the album "Return to Paradise Islands" - what were the songs, what was the label, is it still available? I wasn't in the Circle when this album came out but remember a song and dance was made in one of the papers - "Daily Express", I think - about Bing Crosby making records for Sinatra's company. Reprise of course., and I believe it has now been deleted from the lists although probably still available in sound well-stocked shops.

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+ I've since learned that this came in for some "ill-balance" 'twixt voice and orchestra controversy a the time of issue. I bought it as soon as it came out and loved it. Still do. Not the least remarkable thing about it is that it contains a dozen Hawaiian songs which are completely unexpected in that they are almost completely unknown and certainly not the hackneyed Aloha songs one usually thinks of in connection with Hawaii.

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+ That in itself is a remarkable feat. I know when I read about the project I immediately thought of "Blue Hawaii", "Sweet Leilani", and other songs which had, incidentally, been tied up on the "Blue Hawaii" album of America-only issue. But what a surprise it turned out. "My Tane", Frangipani Blossom, Forevermore, Beautiful Kahana, Home In Hawaii, the roguish Keep Your Eyes on The Hands, the swingy " Hukilau Song " ...."Ah, what a beautiful day to go fishing!" Beautiful melodies, beautifully sung. And the arrangements were a good job of work by Nelson Riddle. Here gain was a remarkable feature: Hawaiian steel guitars and ukelele's most conspicous by their absence! Who would have thought a Hawaiian album could be made without them? nBut it was. The number was Reprise R-6106 and I'm afraid a very generous collector with two copies - or a second-hand shop are the only hopes now. It was issued in 1964 and Reprise saw fit to endorse the sleeve: "Newly Recorded". As if to say: no reissues on REPRISE! This too, was the album on which Bing remarked that he couldn't get excited over the singing - but Nelson Riddle's arrangements were quite something - or words to that effect. That's Bing!

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"DISCROSBY" Cont.

+ I was conjecturing the other day that if Bing hadn't been the world-shaking phenomenon he was, and is, and had made say, only "St. Louis Blues", "Blue Prelude", "My Woman", and one or two others of that kind, the "blues" addicts today would be all dewy-eyed and pro-claiming "Bing - the greatest 'blues' singer of all time!". But he would, of course, have been denied to his vast public thereby. Having swept the board in all fields he is, justly, the complete legend.

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+ I mentioned the "Daily Express" a paragraph or two back. This paper carries what might be loosely called "record reviews" by whom I assume to be a young lady, name of Judith Simons. A few weeks back she was "reviewing" an Elvis Presley record. I can't say I can't remember the name for the simple reason I didn't note it in the first place. But I did note that Miss Simons said that this was the "different" Presley to the old rock and roll Elvis - and that, "as has been noted before", with this showing, Elvis could capture the Crosby schmaltz-market!!!. Now, I'm not considering the last item of idiocy re. schmaltz but the bit about "as has been noted before", the inference being that somewhere, sometimes, someone has suggested that the Pelvis G. rator was another Bing Crosby. Did anybody ever perpetrate this enormity? And lest I seem unfair to Presley, I might add that I've heard him sing one or two numbers that were quite listenable. "Old Shep", the dog song, for example. Even at his best, however, to compare him with Mr. C. would be the height of either lunacy - or wishful thinking.

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+ "Call Me Lucky" was remarkable for its Crosby-phraseology - and so are some of the records! No matter how many times I listen to these records I still find them highly amusing. Here are two examples - see if you can name them. I omit the lady's name in the first otherwise it will be too easy:

(i) "Love y'skimmer, - , where'd yuh grab it?" What's a "skimmer" and who was Bing addressing?

(ii) "She kept on a'quonking, full of plaints." Quonking? Pretty easy to guess what that means, but isn't it descriptive? Bing was clearly discussing a ragging woman with a duettist. Who was he?

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+ Bing, Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer hardly pandered to their feminine fans in 1941 - and many times since - when they proclaimed "A woman's a two-faced, troublesome thing, that leaves you to sing, the blues in the night!"

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+ Seems I might say some more about "Thoroughly Modern Bing" in view of the foregoing, after all, it is Bing, which will be enough for most of us! And there is plenty of good stuff on it, allowing for the fact that the drummer seems to get a track all to himself. My favourite number is (I think) "Love is Blue" - a song tailor-made for Bing and he gives it all the celebrated Crosby treatment. Plenty of "feel" and plenty of nice, deep, round tones. The album is worth the money for that track alone. I wonder if anyone can tell me why, though, that this number always makes me think of "Greensleeves"? Is is the tempo, a sort of madrigal timing - or is it the chord structure. Musicians to the fore.

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+ "Ding Dong The Witch Is Dead" a good swinger with Bing at home with it - especially his fade off remarks: "Bye bye witch....." And "High Hopes" shows what a swinger can do with such a song as opposed to a singer who merely proclaims himself to be one! I'm a little surprised at the inclusion of this particular item, really.

Cont. over.

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"DISCROSBY" Cont:

+ Of all the songs that Bing recorded a second time I doubt if any offers a more startling contrast that "I Kiss Your Hand Madame". The first version, issued here on Columbia, was made on 24th May, 1939, with Lennie Hayton, piano, Matty Malneck, violin, and Mike Pingitore, guitar. The second rendering followed no less than 18 years later, when it had the full, lush, Victor Young treatment on 17th January, 1947. The '29 version has the young Bing hard put to it to restrain his "swingy" approach - in a number such as this! The '47 version, of course, was occasioned by its inclusion in the film "Emperor Waltz", with Bing a much-matured balladeer. Take your pick, however, both are fine records.

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+ Despite her denials to the contrary, I reckon my wife is one of the greatest Crosby fans ever. The reason? She has named at least 50 records as "bing's best"! That's not bad going. After a lengthy run on "Changing Partners" her current No. 1. is "That's For Me", from the 1940 film "Rhythm On The River". I find it easy to be agreeable!

"The tilt of your chin as you chuckle and grin - that's for me!"

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+ In case you haven't named them, the "skimmer" referred to above is Bing's description of Judy Garland's new hat, vide "Yah-Ta-Tah". "Quonking" is used in "Your Socks Don't Match" with Louis Jordan. Seems a woman who keeps on nagging is "a'quonking" all day.

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STOP PRESS! Just as I was about to conclude for this issue I was astonished, on the morning of 31st October to see the "Thoroughly Modern Bing" in shops all over Cardiff! I had been wondering - and asking - how we were going to get this album here, seeing that Pickwick International have, so far, issued only "cheap" labels. Now we know - it is on E.M.I.-Stateside! Sad to say, those who obtained the album from America have lost out again. Buyihg albums this way is always more expensive - this time the loss is more grievous, for the track "The End of the Rainbow" is included on the British issue, whereas the American is 11 tracks only and Rainbow was issued as a single. I consider this a quite unaccountable procedure. I'm one of those with the American issue!

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+ I expect all readers will be out to get this album, as they should, for it is a fine Crosby addition. Nothing to do with Bing's singing though is the thought: how many of these songs will be heard of in, say, five years' time? In other words, will any become standards - excepting of course "The Witch is Dead" which is 1939, and although hardly a standard, has enjoyed a revival of late. I find this album rather a sad commentary on the songwriting output of today. Songs such as "Talk To The Animals", "My Friend the Doctor", "What's More American", and "Chim-Chim-Charee" are hardly attractive when taken out of the context of the show or film in which they were featured.

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+ However, as I say, "Love is Blue", and now "Rainbow" on the British issue, compensates and makes this a highly desirable album. AND it is fair to record that young visitors to the Bristo menage like the album enormously and are warm in their approval of "ol' Bing" sounding so great - AND WITH IT! So, I'm an old-fashioned what's-its-name, I guess, muttering about Bing Sings Ray Noble - and other things!

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+ We'll be well into November when you read this. Even so, its terribly early to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year! But its the last chance in print so.....all the very best from me. I know you'll have a White Christmas, whatever the weather. And so shall I. Thank you for so much support in this passing year in the way of letters and appreciation. "See" you in January.

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LET'S SPEND AN EVENING AT HOME

Lyrics by
Ralph Freed

Music by
Harry Barris

to be
m happen
onnected with another
with Prowse hit